

COLORADO FOUNDATION SEED PROJECTS

Agronomy Foundation Seed (AFS) of Colorado State University (CSU) serves as the link between CSU plant breeding programs and Colorado growers. AFS is responsible for increasing the Breeder seed and producing Foundation seed to ensure sufficient high quality seed distribution to certified seed growers. In addition to providing Foundation seed of varieties developed by CSU, AFS also performs contract production of Breeder or Foundation class seed for outside parties. Custom production can range in size from an acre on up. Seed can be conditioned, treated, and bagged to meet the customers' needs.

DELAWARE CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Seed certification in Delaware was the responsibility of the University of Delaware until 1978, when the responsibility was assigned to the Delaware Department of Agriculture. The Delaware Crop Improvement Association acts as an advisory committee to the Seed Certification Program.

The primary crops certified in Delaware are soybeans, small grains and turf. All field inspections, warehouse inspections and laboratory tests are done by the Department of Agriculture. Certification tags are issued by the Department of Agriculture.

GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Georgia Seed Development Commission is the agency responsible for foundation plant material production in Georgia. It was created by legislative action in 1956 and is designated as the "recipient of breeder seed from University of Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations." The Commission is administratively assigned to the Department of Agriculture with a seven-member board and is responsible to the Commissioner of Agriculture as permanent board chair.

The Seed Commission has an active seed production program for most row crops grown in the state including peanuts, soybeans, small grains, cowpeas, bahiagrass, cotton, fescue, lupine, canola, alfalfa, and millets. In addition, the Commission maintains foundation material of vegetatively propagated turfgrass, and horticultural cultivars developed by the University of Georgia and USDA/ARS. In 1997 the Commission entered into a cooperative agreement with the University of Georgia Research Foundation to manage licensing and royalty collection for University and USDA/ARS developed cultivars. The Commission also establishes and coordinates marketing associations for these University and USDA cultivars.

The Commission is a non-profit, self-supporting organization and derives operating funds from seed, vegetative plant material sales and a percentage of royalty collections. It operates two facilities, one in Athens and the other in Plains. The Athens facility is the administrative office and includes bulk storage, warehousing, and a full array of conditioning equipment for soybeans, small

grains and other crops. The Plains facility houses the peanut program with equipment for drying, storage, shelling and treating seed peanuts. An air screen machine with flat bag storage is also located in Plains to condition and store small grains and soybeans.

The Commission staff cooperates with USDA and UGA faculty in supporting and facilitating various research projects. Since 1990, the Commission has directly provided over two million dollars to the University and USDA in support of cultivar development. The GSDC will continue to provide leadership and economic support for new business opportunities in helping to keep agriculture as Georgia's number one industry.

IDAHO FOUNDATION SEED PROGRAM

As part of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, the Idaho Foundation Seed Program (IFSP) maintains Breeder seed in cooperation with the appropriate plant breeder or agency, coordinates the production, certification, and allocation of Foundation seed, and provides information on certified seed and supports the certified seed program in Idaho.

The IFSP currently maintains and distributes more than 120 varieties of wheat, barley, oats, beans, potatoes, peas, chickpeas, lentils, rapeseed, mustard, grasses, forbs, and forage legumes. IFSP seed production, storage and distribution takes place at UI Research and Extension centers across the state. These include Tetonia and Aberdeen (southeast), Kimberly (south central), Parma (southwest), and Moscow (north). The program coordinator is located at Kimberly.

KANSAS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

First established in 1902 as the Kansas Seed Corn Breeders, the Association's purpose was to improve the kinds of corn grown in the state of Kansas. After a name change in 1914, the Kansas Crop Improvement Association (KCIA) focused on "promoting the agricultural interests of the state by such means that would be beneficial to all parties interested in progressive agriculture and specifically through the use of improved varieties of farm seeds and plants." Today, KCIA focuses on "creating the opportunity for its' members to participate in integrity-based quality assurance programs that provide superior seed and plant products. KCIA utilizes research, education, certification, and uniform standards that result in a safe, stable, secure seedstock supply."

Seed certification has always been of primary importance to the Association and field inspections were begun in 1919. The Kansas Certification Law of 1937 authorizes Kansas State University (KSU) to annually appoint an agency to carry out the necessary functions of seed certification in the state. Each year since then, KCIA has reported its' activities to the university and has been re-appointed as the official state seed certifying agency.

Kansas Crop Improvement Association is a 501(c)5, private, non-profit organization supported by the dues and fees of its members and customers. It is governed by a board of directors elected by the membership. The head of the KSU Agronomy Department and the KSU Director of Extension serve as ex-officio directors. Another board member is appointed by the Kansas Seed Industry Association (KSIA) as their representative. (The KCIA likewise appoints a representative to the KSIA Board of Directors.) Association offices are located on the KSU Agronomy Farm in Manhattan, Kansas, and include a full-service seed testing lab.

Wheat is the principle crop in the KCIA program and accounts for about 90% of the certification activity. Other crops routinely certified include soybeans, oats, barley, sorghum, alfalfa, triticale, millet, rye, rapeseed and native grasses. Over 2.5 million bushels from 100,000 acres is certified each year by the 310 KCIA members. The seed lab tests approximately 5,000 samples each year.

Both the genetic and mechanical standards are used in Kansas seed certification. To ensure that these are met, KCIA performs inspections and tests on the fields and seeds. Additionally, KCIA maintains an approved conditioner program for educating operators and monitoring facilities used to condition certified seed.

KCIA offers Quality Assurance and Identity Preserved programs and cooperates with accredited agencies for certified organic audits. The KCIA Seed Lab is under contract with the Kansas Department of Agriculture to provide regulatory seed testing and other official seed testing services.

KENTUCKY SEED IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Kentucky Seed Improvement Association (KSIA) was organized in 1929 and later incorporated in 1939. The purpose of seed certification is to provide an orderly means of maintaining and making available to the public high-quality seeds and propagating material of superior plant varieties. Authority for certification is through the Kentucky Seed Law (KRS 250.170 - 250.230) where the Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Kentucky, has designated KSIA as the official seed certifying agency for Kentucky. Kentucky Seed Improvement Association is a non-profit corporation composed of and directed by seed producers and conditioners.

A Board of Directors consisting of 8 members representing all areas of the state governs the Association. The Association's office is located on the University of Kentucky Agronomy Research Farm near Lexington. All operating expenses are financed through membership, inspection, and tag fees. All certification activities are conducted in close cooperation with faculty and staff of the Foundation Seed Project and Department of Agronomy, University of Kentucky.

Seed certification in Kentucky is based on both genetic and mechanical standards. All Kentucky certified seed must meet minimum standards for genetic purity, germination, mechanical purity and be free from certain diseases and troublesome weed seed. Kentucky Seed Improvement Association also offers seedsmen service inspections for quality control and phytosanitary inspections for the issuance of phytosanitary export certificates.

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, & FORESTRY, DIVISION OF ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH

The Division of Animal and Plant Health is the organization responsible for the certification of crops in the state of Maine. The Division is administratively located in the Maine Department of Agriculture.

Purpose:

The Division of Plant Industry was established to protect the public from hazards associated with the sale, transport, or growing of weak, diseased, or insect-infested commercial plant stock fruits or seed; and to encourage the keeping of bees.

Its current responsibilities are to enforce the statutes relating to the certification of seed potatoes and other crops; to ensure an adequate supply of foundation seed potatoes to the state's commercial seed potato producers; to inspect nurseries, orchards, fields, and gardens; and to license beekeepers and inspect their hives.

Organization:

The Division of Plant Industry was established in 1919. In the early years, the Division was greatly involved with insect control having to do with the corn borer, gypsy moth, browntail moth, Japanese beetle, and greenhead fly. As these functions were assumed by others, the emphasis of the Division shifted to work with commercial seed potato and grain producers, nurserymen, orchardists, florists, beekeepers, and small fruit and vegetable growers.

The Division's professional staff is comprised of the director; a state apiarist; an integrated pest management entomologist; a state horticulturist, two assistant horticulturists; seven seed potato inspectors, one of whom is trained to certify other crops; a seed potato inspector supervisor; the manager of the Porter Nuclear Seed Farm and several farm and laboratory staff.

Certification Program

One of the major activities of this Division is the certification of seed potatoes and field crops, a self-supporting service paid through fees charged to seed producers. The Maine Seed Potato Certification Program inspected 10,979 acres of seed potatoes produced by 113 growers in 2006. These totals represented a continuing slow decline in numbers over the past five years.

Foundation Seed Potato Production

The Maine Seed Potato Board acts as the foundation and production agency for the State of Maine. Each year the Porter Farm produces over one million pounds of foundation seed potatoes for sale to certified seed growers in the state. No foundation grain is currently being produced at this facility.

MARYLAND SEED CERTIFICATION

Seed certification in Maryland, as authorized by state law, is the responsibility of the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). The Turf and Seed Section of MDA administers this program. Other programs within the Turf and Seed Section are the state seed laboratory, seed regulatory, turfgrass certification, turfgrass regulatory, and supervised seed mixing. Crops certified in Maryland are wheat, barley, oats and soybeans.

Foundation seed is grown and distributed under the direction of the Maryland Crop Improvement Association (MCIA), in cooperation with the University of Maryland and MDA. MCIA is responsible for collecting royalties on all varieties grown in Maryland in which a royalty has been assessed. Royalties collected on Maryland released varieties grown outside of the state should be forwarded to MCIA.

MDA Website: www.mda.state.md.us

MICHIGAN CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Michigan Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) was incorporated as a nonprofit organization under the General Corporation Law, Act 84 of 1921, of the State of Michigan. The purpose of the association shall be to foster and promote the production and use of improved seed stocks in Michigan, to serve as an official seed certification agency for the State of Michigan, and to engage in such other activities as provided by law as shall best serve its primary purpose.

Authority for certification is through Public Act 221 of 1959 as amended, where the Director of the Michigan Department of agriculture has designated MCIA as the official seed certifying agency for Michigan. Michigan Crop Improvement Association is a nonprofit organization composed of and directed by seed producers and conditioners. Current membership is 90.

The Michigan Foundation Seed Association was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in 1949 and continued in existence until 1997 when the organization was merged with the Michigan Crop Improvement Association to become one organization. This merger was made because of the very similar organizational structure and membership makeup of both organizations and to help make the management of both organizations more efficient.

An eight-member board of directors governs the Michigan Crop Improvement Association. Six directors are elected by the membership, while two directors representing Michigan State University and the seed industry are appointed by the board. Certification activities (including field inspection and laboratory testing) along with the production of foundation seed stocks are conducted by a staff consisting of six full-time, three-part time, and twenty seasonal employees.

The association's office is located at Okemos, MI. All operating expenses for certification services are financed through membership, inspection, and tag fees. Foundation seed production is financed through the sale of Foundation seed product. All certification activities are conducted in close cooperation with faculty and staff of the Crops and Soil Science Department, Michigan State University, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Major crops certified in Michigan are corn, wheat, oats, dry beans, and soybeans. Over the past five years, the average acreage certified has been approximately 65,000 acres.

Seed certification in Michigan is based on both genetic and mechanical standards. All Michigan certified seed must meet minimum standards for genetic purity, germination, mechanical purity, and be free from certain diseases and weed seeds. Michigan Crop Improvement Association also offers seedsmen service inspections for Quality Assurance and Identity Preservation. Michigan Crop Improvement Association has just begun a pilot program for source ID certification of native grasses.

Further information can be obtained from our web site at www.michcrop.com

MINNESOTA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) is one of the oldest agricultural organizations in the state of Minnesota. It was originally organized in 1903 by people interested in the "systematic encouragement for the use of pedigreed seed." MCIA offers programs and services that support producers and processors in meeting demands for high-quality agricultural products in Minnesota, the United States and the world.

MCIA is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the productivity, profitability, and competitive position of its members. It is governed by a board of directors and operates on fees charged for services performed. MCIA offers an array of certification programs and services including crop, turf grass, and native seed certification, seed and sod Quality Assurance, forage and mulch certification, Identity Preserved grain certification, Organic Certification, and customized third-party inspection auditing and consulting services. Its Foundation Seed Division offers Foundation seed, parent seed production services and performs variety licensing as the marketing agent for the University of Minnesota.

MCIA is designated as Minnesota's official seed certifying agency and noxious weed seed free forage and mulch certifying agency. In addition to its AOSCA seed certification program, MCIA offers seed certification under the OECD Seed Schemes allowing Minnesota seed producers to move seed to international markets. MCIA's organic certification division, MCIA Organic, is an NOP accredited certifier of producers, handlers, and processors of crops, wild crops, livestock, and other organic products.

MCIA's experienced, well-trained staff provides customized inspection, audit, training, and other quality management services. With staff members trained as ISO lead auditors, organic inspectors, and in HACCP, MCIA has the ability to serve its members in a multitude of capacities.

Each MCIA program is backed by a century of experience and integrity.

MISSISSIPPI CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Mississippi Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) is a non-profit, self-supported farmer's cooperative which operates under a charter granted by the Mississippi Secretary of State on October 11, 1940. It is recognized by State Law as the official crop certifying agency of the State of Mississippi.

MCIA is headquartered on the campus of Mississippi State University. The affairs of the Association are under the immediate control of an eight-man board of directors. The board consists of the Director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station at Mississippi State University; the President of the Mississippi Seedsmen's Association or a representative selected by the Mississippi Seedsmen's Association; and six other members elected by and from the membership of MCIA as follows: Two members shall represent commercial plant breeding firms, and three members shall represent certified seed growers of a major crop other than plant breeding firms. And one member representing minor crops.

MCIA is totally financed by field, equipment and conditioning plant inspection fees and fees for certification tags. All Mississippi certified seed must be conditioned in plants that have been inspected and approved by the Association inspectors. Custom conditioning plants must also be bonded to handle certified seed. Certified seed lots must be sampled by MCIA inspectors and tested by the State Seed Testing Laboratory at Mississippi State University.

MCIA works in close cooperation with specialists from the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mississippi Department of Agriculture, and specialists from the private sector for advice and recommendation on technical matters pertaining to various crops and seed.

In the early days of MCIA, the primary crop certified in Mississippi was cotton since practically all of the major cotton breeding firms were located in the state. In 2005, there were 13 different crops in the certification program in Mississippi which includes some 94 different varieties and accounted for about 93,628 acres of certified seed production. The major crops in certification in Mississippi today are cotton, rice, wheat, and soybeans, in that order.

In addition to certification work, MCIA has performed phytosanitary inspections on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Industry during the past several years.

MCIA is a member of the following organizations: Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA); Southern Seed Certification Officials; American Seed Trade Association; Southern Seedsmen's Association; Mississippi Seedsmen's Association; American Soybean Association; Mississippi Soybean Association; Mississippi Section, American Society of Agronomy; Mississippi Economic Council; and the Association of Mississippi Agricultural Organizations (AMAO).

MONTANA SEED GROWERS ASSOCIATION

The Montana Seed Growers Association was founded September 12, 1912. In 1951 the Montana State Legislature officially recognized seed certification by passing a law-making Montana State University the institution responsible for crop certification. The University President designated the Montana Seed Growers Association as the University's agent to certify all field crops except potatoes. The first duty in 1912 was the certification of alfalfa seed fields.

The Association is incorporated under the laws of Montana as a non-profit corporation. The Association is governed by a board of six directors. The directors are elected for a three-year term. One director is elected from each of the six Agricultural Research Center Districts. The officers are President, Vice-President, Manager and Secretary-Treasurer. The Department Head for the Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology Department is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. The Manager must be an agronomist from either the Extension Service or the Department of Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology. All crop varieties submitted to the Association for certification are reviewed by the Board of Directors, Department Head, Manager, and respective plant breeders.

The major crops certified by this agency are as follows:

Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat	Durum Wheat
Barley	Oats/Canola	Triticale
Safflower	Sainfoin/Peas/Lentils	Alfalfa
Grasses	Red Clover	Camelina
Native Grasses & Forbs	Spelt	Lentils

A few species are processed through the Wildland Collected Seed Program. MSGA also does some certification or Noxious Weed Seed Free Straw by agreement with the Montana Department of Agriculture.

NEBRASKA FOUNDATION SEED DIVISION

The Foundation Seed Division is an integral part of the Agricultural Research Division of the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Nebraska Foundation Seed Division is a self-supporting non-profit organization. Operation funds are derived directly from sales of foundation seed and services. The main purpose of the Division is to increase small lots of breeder seed of new varieties to amounts that will allow rapid and equitable distribution to certified seed producers and ultimately to farmers. The Division also maintains supplies of pure Foundation seed stocks of established crop varieties and hybrids. Custom seed production services for increasing parent seed stocks are available for Division clientele.

The Foundation Seed Division office is located at Ithaca, Nebraska. The Director who reports to the Director of the Agricultural Research and Division Center (ARDC), University of Nebraska- Lincoln, supervises the division. The Director is responsible for the seed production and conditioning activities at the Foundation Seed farm at the Agricultural Research and Division Center near Ithaca, Nebraska. The staff also includes two Ag Research technicians and a Staff Assistant.

Foundation seed crops are produced at several locations in Nebraska to minimize the risk of crop failure due to climatic conditions and to provide adequate isolation necessary to insure genetic purity. The major production area is at the Agricultural Research and Development Center near Ithaca, Nebraska. Approximately 700 acres of dry land and 300 acres of irrigated land are devoted to Foundation seed production at this site.

The Foundation Seed Division maintains over 100 different varieties and lines of 11 crops. Production of foundation seed involves the following crops:

Winter Wheat	Spring Oats	Millet
Field Beans	Soybeans	Alfalfa
Corn Sorghum	Warm Season Grasses	Sudan Grass
Cool Season Grasses		

Any certified seed producer may purchase foundation seed of available varieties and lines. All farmers of the state may thus be reached through these sales of superior crop seeds.

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY SEED CERTIFICATION

The NMSU Seed Certification is an incorporated non-profit organization of seed producers and others interested in the production and distribution of high-quality planting seed. It is the designated official seed certifying agency of New Mexico in accordance with the New Mexico Seed Law. The affairs of the association are governed by an elected board of directors composed of fourteen members.

The association is responsible for the promulgation of rules, regulations, and standards for all certification of seed and other propagating materials in the state. The New Mexico Seed Law includes the structure of a Seed Certification Committee which is responsible for ratifying the rules, regulations and standards set by the NMSUSC.

Office space and utilities are furnished by New Mexico State University and the office personnel are considered employees of the university. All cultivars developed by the Ag Experiment Station plant breeders are released through the NMSUSC. The NMSUSC acts as the representative of the Ag Experiment Station (AES) and serves as the Foundation Seed Agency for the state. The seed laboratory is administered by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. The association works closely with the AES, Cooperative Extension Service and N.M. Department of Agriculture.

NEW YORK SEED IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In 1991, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets designated the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as the official seed certifying agency for the state of New York. To carry out these responsibilities, the New York Seed Improvement Project (NYSIP) has been established as an activity within the School of Integrated Plant Sciences (SIPS) Plant Breeding & Genetics Section at Cornell University. Prior to 1991, Seed Certification and Foundation Seed production in New York were the responsibility of the New York Seed Improvement Cooperative, Inc. (NYSIC).

NYSIP's mission is to produce and distribute genetically pure Foundation Seedstocks of improved crop varieties developed by Cornell University Plant Breeders to northeast seed producers and to oversee the production of Certified Seed for use by northeast farmers. In addition, NYSIP administers the Northeast Foundation Seed Alliance, which has the responsibility for the production and distribution of Foundation Seed of cereal grains developed at The Pennsylvania State University.

NYSIP's objective is to assist Cornell Plant Breeders by providing a conduit for delivering the results of their research to commercial agriculture to ensure that Certified Seed being offered to farmers meets the rigid genetic and quality standards specified in state and federal seed laws.

Twelve-month staffing includes a project manager, administrative assistant, and a part-time bookkeeper. Seasonal employees are hired to assist with Field Inspection and Foundation Seed production activities. Central offices are located in Leland Lab on the Cornell University Campus. Seed conditioning and storage facilities are maintained in Ithaca, NY, near the campus.

NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION SEED PRODUCERS

The North Carolina Foundation Seed Producers, Inc. is an organization incorporated on June 6, 1945, as a non-stock, non-profit corporation. Its function is to cooperate with the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other public agencies in making available to farmers of North Carolina foundation seed of new and improved varieties.

The following crops are now being produced and distributed by the corporation: Barley, Oats, Wheat, Triticale, Soybeans, and Peanuts.

NORTH DAKOTA SEEDSTOCK PROGRAM

The North Dakota Foundation Seedstock program was established as a project of the Agronomy Department at North Dakota State University in 1962. The primary objectives of the program are to rapidly increase Foundation class seed of new varieties developed and released by NDSU breeding programs and maintain pure seed of established varieties.

The program director has management responsibility for the program and reports to the director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Office and laboratory facilities are located within the Department of Plant Sciences on the NDSU campus.

Foundation seed is produced, conditioned, and sold at the Agronomy Seed Farm at Casselton and Research/Extension Centers (REC's) at Carrington, Minot, Langdon, and Williston. Contract growers are utilized for additional production when needed.

The program produces approximately 150,000 bushels of HRSW, durum, barley, oats, HRWW, rye, flax, soybeans, chickpeas, lentils, field peas and safflower on 4,000 acres at the REC's. Dry bean seed is routinely produced in three western states under contract with Foundation seed organizations or private companies. The Seedstock program also distributes sunflower germplasm lines developed by the USDA sunflower breeding program.

OHIO FOUNDATION SEEDS

Ohio Foundation Seeds, Inc. (OFSI) was organized in 1937 under the name of Ohio Hybrid Seed Com Producers Association. Its primary purpose was to increase inbred lines and single crosses of com for producers of hybrid seed corn, to conduct corn test plots and to provide information for its members.

With the establishment of the limited generation system of certified seed, OFSI agreed to grow and sell foundation seed for members of the Ohio Seed Improvement Association. Thus, in 1960 the name was changed to Ohio Foundation Seeds, Inc. Currently, OFSI grows and sells foundation seed of wheat, oats, barley, and soybeans. The seed corn business was eliminated in 1990.

OFSI is a non-profit corporation with no connection to Ohio State University, but they work very closely with Ohio State University plant breeders. The membership consists of companies or individuals that grow certified seed and/or hybrid seed com. There are seven trustees elected from the membership to act as the governing board. The day-to-day activities are overseen by a manager. OFSI employs five full-time people and farms about 640 acres with 250 acres being ground they own. Another 600 acres is with area farmers.

OKLAHOMA PEDIGREED SEED SERVICES

The Oklahoma Pedigreed Seed Services (OPSS) is composed of Oklahoma Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc. (OFSS <http://ofss.okstate.edu>), and Oklahoma Crop Improvement Assoc. The Director of OPSS is a faculty member of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma State University (OSU), Stillwater, OK.

The primary role of OFSS is to conduct an effective seed increase program; to make foundation seed and seed stocks of commercial crop varieties available to qualified seed producers and distributors in Oklahoma. The leadership of OFSS includes a manager (Coordinator of Production and Operations), two Sr. Agriculturists, and an office manager. All are OSU staff members. However, all funds (salary, benefits, operations) of OFSS are generated by OFSS.

OREGON FOUNDATION SEED & PLANT MATERIALS PROJECT

The Oregon Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Project is organized under the Department of Crop and Soil Science at Oregon State University. Started in 1968 as an outgrowth of the Oregon Seed Certification Service, the Project continued to develop until a separate office and warehouse facility, program leader, and budget were required to meet the needs of the Oregon seed industry.

The Project produces foundation seed or early generation plant material of cereals, grasses, legumes, meadowfoam, native species, potatoes, and mint through contracts with specialized seed growers. The Project also exchanges seed with similar organizations in other states. In 1993, OSU established an MOU with the Foundation seed programs of Idaho and Washington to produce, inventory, and market foundation seed of Oregon cereal cultivars.

SOUTH CAROLINA – CLEMSON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANT INDUSTRY

The Clemson University Department of Plant Industry is a part of the University's Regulatory and Public Service Programs and has been the official agency for certifying seeds and plants in South Carolina since the programs began in 1947.

Authority to carry out the program was delegated by Clemson University to the South Carolina Crop Improvement Association until 1972, at which time the University assumed full authority and responsibility for the program. The Assistant Director of Plant Industry administers the program. Professional staff includes a program coordinator, one administrative assistant and five field inspectors. The field staff also serves as inspectors for the fertilizer inspection program administered by the department. Major acreage crops certified in South Carolina are peanuts, turf grasses, and small grains. Other crops include soybeans, sweet potatoes, and tobacco.

SOUTH DAKOTA FOUNDATION SEED

The South Dakota Foundation Seed Stocks Division, Inc. (SD FSSD) was organized in 1944 and incorporated in 1945 as a non-profit corporation. The purpose of SD FSSD is to increase and distribute agronomically superior varieties of seed and propagating materials released by the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, ARS/USDA, and other agricultural experiment stations for the benefit of South Dakota agriculture and the citizens of this state. In addition, storage is provided for a reserve of pure seed stock materials. The entire operation is financed through the sale of seed. An eleven-person board directs the organization. Six directors hold positions on the board by virtue of their administrative position at the university.

Five members are nominated by the SDCIA, and a manager is hired who also serves as secretary-treasurer and is a staff member of the Plant Science Department. The SD FSSD operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the SD Agricultural Experiment Station, SD Crop Improvement Association and the SD Seed Trade Association.

Breeder seed developed and supplied to the FSSD is increased by FSSD, inspected by the SDCIA, and distributed as Foundation seed to SDCIA members and Seed Trade members on an established priority basis. Annual production of approximately 1,000 acres of small grains, flax, millet, soybeans, grasses and alfalfa are increased by FSSD with up to an additional 100-200 acres under contract with private seed producers. Financial support in the form of grants are made to the university for varietal research and development. A close working relationship is maintained between FSSD and public research programs.

The office, conditioning plant and warehouses are located on the SDSU campus in Brookings and are operated by two full-time employees and a part time bookkeeper in addition to the manager. All the production of Foundation Seed is conditioned at the FSSD Seed Plant in Brookings.

TEXAS CERTIFICATION AGENCY & FOUNDATION SEED SERVICE

The Texas Department of Agriculture is the official seed certifying agency for the state. The responsibility is assigned to the Seed Quality Program with Texas Department of Agriculture. The programmatic responsibilities also include enforcement of Texas Seed Law and Seed Arbitration Law. The program is exclusively financed by legislative appropriation.

The State Seed and Plant Board is composed of six members, appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. This board has purview over approving varieties to be certified, commodity standards and licenses. The board also has appellate functions based on TDA decisions.

The Texas Foundation Seed Service is a special unit of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES), Texas A&M University System. It is a self-supporting organization whose purpose is to increase and distribute seed or plants of improved varieties or lines developed by TAES and other public plant improvement programs. TFSS handles more than 100 varieties or strains of 25 Texas- adapted crops. These include grains, oilseed, forages and horticultural crops. Production is primarily through supervised contracts with growers in selected areas. Seed conditioning is done at the Units facilities in Vernon, Texas or by supplemental services provided through contractual arrangements.

UTAH CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Seed Certification has been a viable program in Utah since the 1920's. The Utah State Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) has basic responsibility for seed certification in Utah and administered it directly until 1937, when the Utah Crop Improvement Association (UCIA) was organized and designated as the official state certification agency. The UDAF provided oversight for the UCIA until 1947, when the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station (UAES) at Utah State University was given that responsibility. The UAES retained the UCIA as the official certifying agency for Utah and provided a "Seed Certification Specialist" through the Department of Plants, Soils, and Biometeorology to act as Secretary Manager of the Association. Presently the UCIA governing board consists of seven directors elected by the membership (primarily seed growers and conditioners) and five ex-officio Directors representing the UAES, UDAF, USU Extension, and the Utah seed industry.

Over the years, alfalfa can be considered the major seed crop in Utah, with over 16,000 acres in 1955 applied for certification. Since that time, acreage has decreased, and the balance has shifted to small grains (wheat, barley, oats and triticale). More recently, grass varieties (primarily native and introduced wheatgrasses, and other drought tolerant species developed by the USDA-ARS, USDA-FS, USDA-NRCS, and state agencies in Utah) have increasingly become a portion of UCIA certified acres. Other crops the UCIA has certified include varieties of various shrubs and forbs. Utah is also the center of the Intermountain West reclamation seed industry, and in addition to released varieties, UCIA is currently certifying significant amounts of wild collected and field grown Source Identified, Selected, and Tested category seed utilizing AOSCA Pre-Variety Germplasm protocols.

UCIA also has responsibility for production and distribution of stock seed. Most of the seed is produced in cooperation with growers and conditioners, though new releases are initially produced by the sponsoring agency. Stock seed is also distributed from foundation seed organizations in other states and agencies such as the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the NRCS Plant Material Centers.

Though never involving large, cultivated acreages (in keeping with the relatively small amount of arable land in the state), seed certification in Utah has played an extremely important role in providing high quality seed of the newest and most productive varieties and germplasms available for Utah agriculture and reclamation.

VIRGINIA CERTIFICATION & FOUNDATION SEED PROGRAMS

The Virginia Crop Improvement Association is an incorporated, nonprofit organization of seed growers and conditioners. The Association has been designated as the official seed certifying agency in Virginia by the State Certified Seed Board, which is composed of representatives of the State Department of Agriculture, Land Grant University, The Seedsmen's Association, and the Crop Improvement Association.

The VCIA Foundation Seed Division is a part of the Virginia Crop Improvement Association, and both are governed by a ten-member board of directors. The directors are elected by the association membership for three-year rotating terms, with the tenth director appointed by the Head of Virginia Tech Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences Department.

Financial support of the VCIA and the Foundation Seed Farm is received from membership dues, certification fees, Foundation seed sales, and support from the College of Agriculture.

The VCIA membership consists of 134 producers and conditioners. We have 24 approved seed conditioning plants. This past year, the VCIA certified 11 different crops, with small grains, soybeans, and peanuts making up the bulk of the acreage. The acres certified in the state have ranged from 30,000 to 40,000 over the past ten years, with tags issued ranging from 500,000 to 750,000 per year.

The Association owns a 470-acre farm and seed plant where private and public seed stocks of small grains and soybeans are grown and processed. Foundation peanuts are grown and processed under contract by farmers and seedsmen in the peanut belt.

One of the primary goals of the Virginia Seed Programs is to provide educational resources for the production, conditioning, and marketing of quality seed. One of the ways this is being accomplished is through our website www.virginiacrop.org that lists information of university variety test data, seed sources, and seed testing, along with links to USDA, AOSCA, and other seed organizations.

The VCIA supports the University and USDA breeders through a check off on foundation seed sales and has organized the VCI Research Foundation to support breeding work. Currently, fifty cents per unit on soybeans and small grains, and one cent per pound on peanuts, is returned to the respective breeding programs. For the past ten years, two cents from each certified tag issued has been designated toward the VCI Research Foundation. Other services the Association provides include Identity Preserved inspections, Quality Assurance inspections, and supervising the mixing and labeling of all seed used by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

WASHINGTON STATE CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION SEED SERVICE

The Washington State Crop Improvement Association is a non-profit organization working with Washington State University, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and Washington seed growers and conditioners to develop, produce and distribute certified seed.

Working through education, instruction, and promotion, Washington State Crop Improvement Association is the official Washington state agency for foundation seed and for seed certification. The Association is designated as the official seed certifying agency by the Washington State Department of Agriculture for buckwheat, chickpeas, field peas, lentils, millet, small grains, sorghum, and forest reproductive material. Seed certification of all other crops is conducted by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

The Washington State Crop Improvement Association's Foundation Seed Service Division operates under a Memorandum of Agreement with Washington State University and acts as the University's agent. The Foundation Seed Service produces and distributes breeder and foundation seed of public varieties of cereal grains (wheat, barley, oats), grasses, legumes (peas, lentils, chickpeas, alfalfa, red clover, and dry beans), and miscellaneous crops. Seed is purchased from, produced for, and distributed to other seed stock programs for the benefit of growers in Washington and other states. The Foundation Seed Service also provides early generation seed production services to private industry. Approximately 950,000 pounds of 70 varieties are distributed each year.

WSCIA has been in existence since 1953. It is governed by a board of directors and executive committee. Directors are elected by twelve county crop improvement associations. The officers of WSCIA (Executive Committee): President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer are selected by the Board of Directors. The officers, as well as the directors, act without compensation. Directors employ a manager and a full-time staff of eight to oversee the day-to-day affairs.

The Association has an active membership of 1,000 members. Anyone (person or organization), interested in quality seed in general can become a member of the Association. Funding of WSCIA is provided by seed certification fees and foundation seed sales. The Association does not receive any state appropriations.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING SEED CERTIFICATION SERVICE & FOUNDATION SEED

Seed certification and Foundation seed production of public varieties in Wyoming are conducted under the direction of the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture. The Wyoming Crop Improvement Association acts as an advisory board to the seed certification service and Foundation seed program.

The University of Wyoming Seed Certification Service is responsible for certification in Wyoming. The operating budget for the program is generated by fees, with the coordinator's position funded by the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station and the Wyoming Extension Service.

The Wyoming Seed Certification Service determines certification fees and the standards for the crops inspected, receives applications, collects fees, conducts field inspections, and issues seed tags or bulk sale certificates for seed lot's meeting standards. The Wyoming Seed Certification Service also performs Quality Assurance inspections, as well as field phytosanitary inspections on behalf of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The primary crops inspected by the program are alfalfa, dry beans, small grains, and reclamation grasses.

The University of Wyoming Foundation Seed Program produces seed of public varieties. Varieties produced by the program are selected with the needs of Wyoming seed producers as a priority, but production is available to purchasers outside the state.

The Wyoming Crop Improvement Association (WCIA) is an organization of certified seed producers, companies, seed conditioners and individuals with an interest in the production, certification, and marketing of high-quality seed. Each certified seed producer is assessed WCIA dues and is a voting member in the association. The WCIA assists the University of Wyoming Seed Certification Service in formulating seed certification policies and standards. The association disseminates information to assist certified seed producers and promotes certified seed. The WICA is governed by a board of directors. Directors are elected from bona fide seed producers in the seed producing districts of the state. The WCIA Board of Directors is the mechanism by which appeals to certification decisions are made.