

TESTING SEEDS FOR OVER
100 YEARS

December 2008

Iowa State University Seed Testing Laboratory

Seed Science Center
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Expanded Seed Science Center Dedicated

The ISU Seed Science Center dedicated a 5,000 square foot addition on October 14th, 2008. Keynote speaker at the ceremony was Dr. Namanga Ngongi, president of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa, a Gates Foundation partnership working in Africa to help small-scale farmers lift themselves out of poverty. "The new addition will have the effect of taking Iowa State to the world and bringing the world to Iowa State," said Center director Dr. Manjit Misra.

The Seed Lab is one of the world's largest public labs and offers a full line of seed testing services and yet makes a priority of working one-to-one with customers. It is ISO 9001:2000 and National Seed Health System accredited.

Gained through construction was two labs, a new conference room, a number of offices, and updating of existing facilities. A life-sized statue of ISU –alum George Washington Carver now graces the entrance to the Center.

The Seed Science Center is composed of research units (pathology, physiology, seed conditioning, DNA), BIGMAP, international and web-based education, and the seed laboratory. BIGMAP (Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products) provides science-based analysis of risks and benefits of genetically modified plant and animal products. It also provides guidance and education to help safeguard consumers and the environment.



**Big enough
to be your one-stop
testing lab, but
small enough to give
personal attention.**

Seed Quality

It was another interesting year for both seed producers and testing labs! Harvesting corn for seed was delayed along with harvesting grain. The rain and fog of summer continued into the fall in many areas. Some of the early samples of soybeans and cereals had problems with fungi, but overall quality has been excellent. Seed treatment has been effective in increasing germinations for samples with fungal problems. Corn quality has been exceptional so far. Please contact us with any seed quality questions. T

2009 Seed Science Center Workshops

Seed Quality Workshops

AOSA Short Course

Purity Testing April 20-23

CSA exam April 24

Germination April 27-30

CSA exam May 1

Quality Workshop

Corn & Soybean August 19-20

- For more information:

www.seeds.iastate.edu/seedtest

Seed Conditioning Workshops

Color Sorting—Satake June 3-4

Color Sorting—Sortex June 10-11

Commercial Seed Corn June 15-18

Seed Treatment June 24-25

Soybean & Small Grain July 7-9

Soybean & Small grain July 28-30

Gravity Separation August 4

Gravity Separation August 6

Research Seed Corn August 11-13

Upcoming Events

- **ASTA Corn & Soybean Conference**
December 9-12, 2008

Lisa Shepherd, Mike Stahr, Connie Sandve, Alan Gaul, Dr. Yuh-Yuan Shyy, Dr. Manjit Misra, Dr. Susana Goggi

- **ASTA Vegetable/ Flower Seed Conference**

February 7-10, 2009

Lisa Shepherd, Kim North

Training Opportunities

AOSA Seed Analyst Short Course

Purity (April 20-23, 2009)

Germination (April 27– 30, 2009)

Corn and Soybean Quality Workshop

August 19-20, 2009

Check our web page for many other workshops

ISU Seed Testing Laboratory

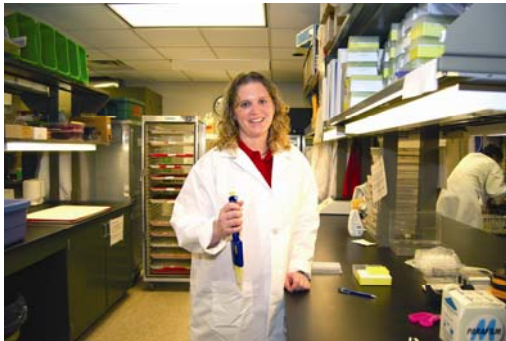
For over 100 years, Iowa State University has provided accurate, timely seed testing services to the seed industry. The Seed Lab annually performs tests on tens of thousands of seed samples, making it one of the world's largest seed testing programs. The Seed Lab analyzes more than 300 plant species using a variety of tests including germination tests to both AOSA and ISTA standards, vigor, purity and noxious weed exams, trait tests and over 200 different seed health tests. The staff is composed of dedicated professionals with many years of experience. Permanent analysts are certified in purity, germination, and/or genetic testing.



Farm Progress

Christa Hoffman and Lisa Shepherd greet visitors at the ISU Seed Science Center's popular booth at the 2008 Farm Progress Show near Boone, Iowa.

Meet Our Staff



Christa Hoffman has adjusted quickly to her job as Trait Testing Coordinator. In her position, she is responsible for determining genetic purity through ELISA, electrophoresis, herbicide bioassay and detecting unintended presence of biotech traits through real-time PCR and lateral flow strips. Christa graduated in 2001 from ISU with a degree in animal science with a minor in Agronomy. She previously worked at Fort Dodge Animal Health as a serial assembly biological production technician and in the test development department.

Christa has added to the Seed Lab's capabilities in PCR and herbicide bioassay testing. While technicians in many labs are involved with only a portion of trait testing, Christa works with the entire package. Growing up on a farm that raised cattle, hogs, corn, and hay gives her an even better perspective on the needs of seed company customers.

Testing for 300 pathogens ...

These words are commonly heard during tours of the Seed Lab.. Our ability to test for that many pathogens may come as a shock. Ten years ago, our seed health lab was testing for about 30 different pathogens, mainly on corn and soybeans. Now, in addition to the diversity of pathogens, we are testing a diversity of seed, including vegetables, flowers, grasses, small grains, peanuts, and trees.



The ISU Seed Lab is certified for phytosanitary testing by both Federal and State authority. All states are able to send samples to us for export testing. We also work on quality assurance testing, to ensure a customer's seed lot is free of harmful pathogens before sale. Lisa Shepherd is committed to helping customers move their seed internationally and is happy to answer any questions. She is also Acting Director of the Administration Unit of the National Seed Health System. Please let us know how we can help with your seed health testing needs today!