



Iowa State University Seed Testing Laboratory

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

New Personnel, Same Personal Service

Change at the Seed Lab: a new face, a familiar face returns, and another switches positions! Christa Hoffman is our new face. She has begun duties as Trait Testing Coordinator, which means she is involved in DNA testing (AP screening, quantitative testing), electrophoresis, herbicide bioassay, and ELISA/lateral flow strip testing. Connie O'Brien is our familiar face. When she last worked at the Seed Lab, she worked in the Germination Lab. After working at Mycogen and pursuing on a degree in seed technology, she returned to ISU to work in our Seed Health and Purity labs.

The switch in position involves Mike Stahr who last was Trait Testing Coordinator. Mike began duties as manager July 1 and brings 28 years of seed testing experience to the position. He has worked in every area of the Lab and has

taught workshops on and off campus for years. Mike is also AOSA vice-president, on the SCST Board of Directors, and on the ISTA GMO Task Force. Former interim manager Lisa Shepherd is now able to devote more time to her duties as Seed Health Testing Coordinator and as acting director of the National Seed Health System's administrative unit.



ISU Seed Laboratory Staff

Seed Quality

This fall was an interesting time for seed producers with a rather foggy August followed by a very rainy fall in some areas of the Midwest. Luckily late summer conditions and an early frost did little to impact corn lab testing except for some Fusarium and shredded leaves. Some soybean lots fared worse with the repeated wet/dry periods this fall adding to disease problems (Phomopsis, Fusarium) and some hard seed. Soybean germs overall have been similar to other years.

ISU Seed Science Center to Get a New Look

Construction is well underway on the new Seed Science Center addition. Gone is the "nature area" southwest of the building. In its place will be two new labs, a conference room, and a number of offices. Institute for Food Safety & Security and BIGMAP personnel housed in several locations around campus will join faculty and staff at the Center in February. BIGMAP provides science-based analysis of the risks and benefits of genetically modified plant and animal products.



Artist's rendition of the Seed Science Center addition.

Upcoming Events

- **ASTA Corn & Soybean Conference**
December 4-7, 2007

Lisa Shepherd, Mike Stahr, Bonnie Crippen, Alan Gaul, Dr. Yuh-Yuan Shyy, Dr. Gary Munkvold, Dr. Susana Goggi, Dr. Manjit Misra

- **ASTA Vegetable/ Flower Seed Conference**
February 3-6, 2007

Lisa Shepherd, Kim North

- **IPSA Annual Conference**
January 22-24, 2008

Mike Stahr

AOSA Seed Analyst Short Course

Purity
April 21-24, 2008

Germination
April 28- May 1, 2008

Corn and Soybean Quality Workshop

August 20-21, 2008

ISU Seed Testing Laboratory

For over 100 years, Iowa State University has provided accurate, professional 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 for 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. All permanent analysts are certified in purity, germination, and/or genetic testing. The lab's modern facili-

SCST Super Genetic Workshop at ISU in Febraury

The Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST) will hold their second Genetic Super Workshop at the ISU Seed Science Center February 4-8, 2008. The workshop will consists of five one-day workshops on herbicide bioassay, molecular biology/plant breeding, immunoassay, electrophoresis, and PCR. Most workshops will split time between hands-on, lecture, and discussion. Cost is \$100 for one day or \$300 for the entire week. Check the SCST web site (www.seedtechnology.net) for more information. This workshop would be beneficial for those new in genetic testing, for experienced technicians, as well anybody interested in genetic trait and AP testing.

Meet Our Staff



Nancy Heideman has worked at the Seed Testing Lab since December 2005. She has had a long career in the seed industry having previously worked at Gasrt Seed Company and at BASF Plant Sciences. Nancy received her Bachelor of Art degree in Biology from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. She is a Certified Seed Analyst in Germination Testing (CSA) and works in the Germination Lab conducting germination, tetrazolium and vigor tests. She thoroughly enjoys the large variety of seeds that the ISU Seed Laboratory tests.

Nancy lives in Ames with her husband Steve and likes to spend her free time riding bikes with him on their tandem. She also enjoys reading, cooking, baking and making candy. She has a lifelong love of plants and the outdoors.

Seed Science Workshops

There will be a full slate of workshops available in 2008 ranging from seed conditioning to treating seed to seed quality. The schedule starts on March 18th with Commercial Popcorn, followed by the Purity week (April 21) and Germination week (April 28) of the AOSA Seed Analyst Short Course. Early to mid-summer has Color Sorting, Commercial Seed Corn, Seed Treatment, Soybean & Small Grains, Gravity Separation, and Research Seed Corn. Summer wraps up with a two-day workshop on seed quality, vigor, and trait testing.

The reviews were good for the second summer of Alan Gaul's seed conditioning workshops. The Center's seed conditioning tower has been updated, and new equipment enhances learning opportunities at each workshop session. Anyone who knows Alan from his days setting up conditioning facilities know that he has a wealth of practical knowledge and genuinely enjoys working with clients to solve conditioning problems and knowing what piece of equipment will best do the job.

For more information, go



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