



2023 - Year in Review

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January 12th

University of Illinois Yield Trial Input

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) is conducting a survey to assess what Illinois farmers think about the current state of the Illinois Variety Testing Program as well as how it may be changed in order to best serve their needs. This is being passed along for ISTA member awareness. The survey does allow you to select "industry" as your stakeholder group. [UIUC Yield Trial Survey](#)

New Agriculture Bills for 2023

Ag and Ag Related Bills Going into Effect for Illinois in 2023 include the following:

HB 05400 Allows the Illinois Department of Agriculture to issue Future Farmers of America decals for Universal special license plates.

HB 05201 Establishes the Agriculture Equity Commission to bring equity to the top job-producing industry in the state. Recognizes the current struggles minority-farmers experience in the industry.

SB 03838 Allows local health departments to use a specific Farmers Market Permit to regulate the sale of certain potentially hazardous foods as well as products raised or grown on the farm of the farmer selling the food product.

HB 03118 Prohibits commercial applicators from applying a barrier mosquitocide between Oct. 16 and April 14 unless it's for public health purposes or the Department of Agriculture determines there is a significant unmet need.

In Case You Missed It (January)

Vilsack: 'No reason to compromise' with Mexico on GMO corn ban. [Farm Week](#)

Research at the University of Illinois could simplify the process for calculating soil carbon credits, which reward farmers for conserving soil carbon through crop rotation, no-tillage, cover crops, and other conservation practices that improve soil health. [UIUC ASC Article](#)

Beck's has partnered with FieldWatch to integrate DriftWatch into FARMserver®. With the DriftWatch integration, farmers are made aware and given perspective as to where high value specialty crops and pollinator habitats are being grown in local surroundings. Read more at [Seed Today](#)

Illinois farmers can now plant soybeans about 10 days earlier and still be eligible for federal crop insurance replant coverage. The 2023 change affects every Illinois county and breaks the state into three segments with planting dates. [Farm Week](#)

January 16th

Illinois Wheat's Double Crop Forum

The Illinois Wheat Association (IWA) is hosting its Double Crop Forum on Monday, January 30, in Mt Vernon, Illinois. A panel of wheat growers from both Kentucky and Illinois along with the following speakers provides a great opportunity for farmers and ag professionals.

- Dr. Dennis Pennington from Michigan State on growing strategies and the Michigan wheat checkoff
- Eric Brammeier on crop insurance
- Dr. Gary Schnitkey from the University of Illinois on rising input costs
- Dr. Chad Lee, Director of Grain and Forage Center at the University of Kentucky
- And more!

Industry Exhibits open at 7:30am, and the meeting will convene at 8:30am, beginning with the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Wheat Association (all IWA members invited). Lunch is provided. Check the IWA website for more information.

February 16th

OTT Applications to Dicamba Resistant Soybeans

The US EPA has changed the over the top (OTT) application cutoff date for dicamba based products intended for resistant soybean varieties. Read more about this important federal level label change in Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association's recent [Regulatory Notice](#).

March 6th

2023 Bills that impact the seed industry

March 10th is the deadline for bills to get out of committee in the Illinois State Capitol. Below are bills that have the most impact on the seed industry. ISTA will be actively working with senators and representatives to make sure our voice is heard on these important legislative issues. As of today, there are 6,538 new pieces of legislation at the capitol. ISTA is actively watching and working over 35 pieces of legislation. Below are the bills that have the most impact to our industry.

Seed Related Legislation

HB1440 - PRETREATED SEED BAN-ETHANOL, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall produce ethanol using seeds that have been treated with a pesticide. ISTA is Monitoring HB1440. HB1440 passed out of the House Environment Committee on a 17-8 vote. HB1440 now moves to the House floor.

HB3726 - DISPOSAL OF PRETREATED SEEDS, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that any manufactured seed that has been treated with a pesticide and that is to be disposed of must be disposed of at a permitted hazardous waste disposal site. ISTA Opposes HB3726. HB3726 has been assigned to House AG Committee.

Pesticide Related Legislation

HB2254 - SB203 - PESTICIDES-PENALTIES, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that for any person applying a pesticide that results in exposure to the pesticide by a human, the penalty shall be \$2,500. Provides that an additional penalty of \$1,000 shall be assessed for each individual human exposed to the pesticide. HB2254 has been assigned to House Environment Committee. SB203 has been assigned to Senate Ag Committee.

HB3086 - SB1726 - PESTICIDES-REGISTRATION, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Increases various fees imposed under the Act beginning in 2024. Provides that all pesticide license fees go to \$250 (rather than \$100). HB3086 has been assigned to House Environment Committee. SB1726 has been assigned to Senate Ag Committee.

HB3800 - RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDES, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that the definition of "Restricted Use Pesticide" also includes any pesticide with one or more of its uses classified as restricted by order of the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture or any pesticide containing Dicamba (3,6-dichloro-2-methoxybenzoic acid) or 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid). HB3800 has been assigned to House Environment Committee.

SB187 - PESTICIDES-NEONICOTINOIDS, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that, on and after January 1, 2024, no pesticide containing a neonicotinoid may be used outdoors on any land owned or maintained by the State, except for use in structural pest control or abatement of non-native insect borers, subject to specified restrictions. Provides that the provisions do not prohibit: the use of seeds that are pretreated with neonicotinoids on public lands owned or maintained by the State; the use of neonicotinoids on property belonging to a public institution of higher education; or the use of neonicotinoids for wood

preservation. Defines "neonicotinoid". Provides that "Restricted Use Pesticide" does not include a pesticide containing a neonicotinoid that is applied by a licensed applicator or certified technician working in structural pest control. SB187 has been assigned to Senate Ag Committee.

Trucking Related Legislation

HB1634 - CALIFORNIA EMISSION STANDARDS FOR ALL VEHICLES, Amends the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Law of 2005 of the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that, by December 1, 2023, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency shall adopt rules to implement the motor vehicle emission standards of the State of California, including, 1) zero-emission vehicle program, (2) low-emission vehicle program, (3) advanced clean trucks program, and (4) heavy-duty low NOx omnibus program. HB1634 hasn't been assigned to committee.

HB2505 - SB2278 - TRUCK MAX HEIGHT / WEIGHT, Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may also, by ordinance or resolution, prohibit the operation of trucks or other commercial vehicles, or may impose limitations as the weight, height, or length (rather than only weight). HB2505 has been House Transportation Committee. SB2278 has been assigned to Senate Transportation Committee.

PFAS Related Legislation

There's quite a bit of PFAS related legislation in this General Assembly this spring. None of them directly affect the seed trade industry. We will keep you aware if there's new amendments to any of those pieces of legislation that will directly affect our industry.

If you have any questions on any piece of legislation, please don't hesitate to reach out to Doug Miller at the ISTA office. Again, the deadline to get legislation out of committee is this coming Friday (March 10th). ISTA will have another update for our membership at the end of the week indicating what did and did not move out of committee.

Reminder - Dicamba Soybeans

Just a reminder that the US EPA has changed the over-the-top (OTT) application cutoff date for dicamba based products intended for resistant soybean varieties. Read more about this important federal level label change in Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association's recent [Regulatory Notice](#).

March 16th

2023 Spring Session UPDATE

March 10th was the deadline for bills to get out of committee in the Illinois State Capitol. Below is an update on the Spring Session.

Seed Related Legislation

HB1440 - PRETREATED SEED BAN-ETHANOL, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall produce ethanol using seeds that have been treated with a pesticide. ISTA is Monitoring HB1440. HB1440 passed out of the House Environment Committee on a 17-8 vote. HB1440 now moves to the House floor.

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April 11th

Department of Labor Makes H-2A Program Changes

On March 28th the Agricultural Workforce Coalition (AWC) issued a letter addressed to Congressional Leaders in Washington regarding changes the Department of Labor has made to the H2A program. Changes in the fee structure, fees that apply in the event of an extended season and job coding concerns have prompted the letter. The AWC is calling for resolutions to

disapprove of the Department of Labor's (DOL's) new and harmful H-2A regulation, entitled, "Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupations in the United States." In the letter the AWC states that "The DOL's regulation comes at a time when American farmers are reeling due to record high costs of production that have translated into thin and even negative margins, conditions the new regulation will greatly exacerbate. Moreover, the regulation further complicates an already complex program and creates legal uncertainty for farmers who comply with requirements in good faith. The Department of Labor has also managed to develop a regulation that it, too, will have great difficulty administering, making the program even more cumbersome for farmers, many of whom produce perishable goods whose handling cannot wait on a bureaucracy." To read more see the [letter posted on the AWC Website](#).

April 20th

Voluntary Legislative Contributions

Our annual request for legislative contributions should have been delivered by the USPS to your place of business or the address we have on file. Why make a legislative contribution to the Illinois Seed Trade Association? Without your support the Illinois Seed Industry does not have a voice in Springfield. Your legislative contribution is the "seed" that will serve as a "strong healthy crop" in Springfield during the legislative season.

One of ISTA's primary objectives is to aid, advise and assist in the establishment or enactment of equitable laws, rules, and regulations for the transaction of business in the seed industry. As a member of the Illinois Seed Trade Association, you will be supporting the seed industry at the state and national level.

Your support keeps us at the table and off of the menu. Please make a voluntary legislative contribution today!

April 27th

ISTA A.L Lang and W.L Burlison Memorial Scholarship Fund.

As the weather improves our thoughts turn to the annual ISTA Golf Outing to be held on Wednesday, June 21. The proceeds from the golf outing have always been used to support students at the University of Illinois. The Illinois Seed Trade Association met with representatives from the University of Illinois Foundation earlier this year. The board of directors then set the course for amending and restating the Lang endowment. The fund will now be known as the Illinois Seed Trade Association A. L. LANG and W. L. BURLISON Memorial Scholarship Fund. Scholarships will now be awarded to undergraduate students in the Department of Crop Sciences. The recipients will be selected by the department head in counsel with members of the department. Candidates must demonstrate scholarship, leadership, and evidence of professional promise.

As provided in the restatement "The Donor has established a fund at the Foundation in order to support students in the Department of Crop Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The Foundation acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of the Donor and the Donor's intention to support the University of Illinois."

The Illinois Seed Trade Board of Directors added \$7,000 to the endowment and set goals for the future of the scholarship. Please help ISTA continue this work and meet its goals by supporting the Annual Golf Outing. More information can be found on the Illinois Crop Improvement Calendar of Events.

In honor of Dr. Burlison and Professor Lang please take a few minutes to read the following bioographies by James R. Shearl, ISTA Member. Jim points out that Burlison and Lang only disagreed on one thing - the game of golf.

Dr. W. L. Burlison

Dr. William L. Burlison (1882-1958) was an internationally acclaimed agronomist. He did both his masters and PhD at the University of IL and then became an associate professor in the U of I Department of Agronomy in 1915. He advanced to full professor in 1920 and served as Head of the Department of Agronomy until his retirement in 1951. Burlison published bulletins, circulars, scientific articles including one book called Farm Crop Projects. Burlison was an early promoter of the diverse use of many crops. He was one of the developers of the American Soybean Association in 1920 and a founder of the National Soybean Processing Association in 1930. Burlison promoted many uses of soybeans including edible varieties, as well as oil and protein uses. It was fitting that in 1988, Dr. Cecil Nickel released a high performing, high protein soybean variety and named it Burlison. Jim Shearl was developing the ICIA Grain Quality Lab at the release of Burlison. Shearl saw the high protein merit and worked with certified seed producers in the Gibson City, IL area and coordinated the delivery of 100,000 bushel of identity preserved Burlison to Central Soya of Gibson City for special use processing.

Professor A. L. Lang

Professor Alvin L. Lang (1896-1989) was raised in Elmwood, IL. He was an outstanding athlete and lettered at the U of I as a pole vaulter. He received his undergraduate degree from the U of I in 1920. He immediately started working for the U of I Department of Agronomy. He worked both as an experiment station leader at Dixon, IL and as a teaching and research professor on the Urbana campus. His professorial specialization was soil science. After retiring from the University of IL, he became Executive Secretary of the IL Seed Dealer's Association (ISDA) now the IL Seed Trade Association. Al was an excellent photographer. His agricultural pictures were used in many high school textbooks. He also was a regular photo contributor to the IL Seed News. In addition, he was the author of 50 Years of Service IL Crop Improvement

Association. Two of Al's greatest achievements for ISDA were hiring a lobbyist to assist the IL seed industry and being a founding member and serving as secretary of the IL Ag Legislative Breakfast.

Working Together Again... Lang and Burlison

Al Lang had tremendous respect for Doc Burlison as he called him. Burlison was Department Head and Al's boss. Burlison was strict. He expected everyone to wear a necktie, be on time or early, and working on Saturday was encouraged. Burlison was a teacher and a promoter. Al would say "Ole Doc Burlison always said - you have to get out and be seen." In other words, don't just sit behind your desk.

Burlison and Lang only disagreed on one thing. Burlison thought the game of golf was a big waste of time. They would both laugh that the scholarship funds raised in their honor are over a game of golf. On the other hand, they were both very dedicated to scholarships. They would like this scholarship being named after them both.

May 11th

ISTA Golf Committee Update!

We are looking forward to another great golf outing this year. Please join us as a team, a sponsor, or both!! Hit the links with the Illinois Seed Trade Association on June 21st.

Awards Sponsor

- Kitchen Seed Company

Hole and Hospitality Sponsors

- Bahler Transportation Services
- Bahrns Equipment
- Busey Bank
- Champaign County Seed
- Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP
- First Mid Bank
- Heller Ford
- Illinois Foundation Seeds, Inc.
- Insurance Risk Management
- MayerSeedline
- Peterson Genetics
- ProAmpac - Eldorado Packaging
- ProHarvest Seeds
- Seedbox Solution
- Victor Envelope

Teams

- Busey Bank
- Champaign County Seed

- First Mid Bank
- Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
- Illinois Foundation Seeds (2022's First Place Team!)
- ProHarvest Seeds
- University of Illinois Foundation

Thank you!

The proceeds from the golf outing have always been used to support students at the University of Illinois. The Illinois Seed Trade Association recently met with representatives from the University of Illinois Foundation. The board of directors then set the course for amending and restating the Lang endowment. The fund will now be known as the Illinois Seed Trade Association A. L. LANG and W. L. BURLISON Memorial Scholarship Fund. Scholarships will now be awarded to undergraduate students in the Department of Crop Sciences. The recipients will be selected by the department head in counsel with members of the department. Candidates must demonstrate scholarship, leadership, and evidence of professional promise.

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The Illinois Seed Trade Board of Directors added \$7,000 to the endowment and set goals for the future of the scholarship. Please help ISTA continue this work and meet its goals by supporting the Annual Golf Outing. More information can be found on the Illinois Crop Improvement Calendar of Events.

May 18th

June 21 ISTA Golf Outing

Get your teams together and join us on June 21st for a great day for fun and sun, out on the links! Golf Registration Form Golf Brochure (includes event location and times)

June 21 and 22 - Annual Meetings

Please join us for the annual meetings of the Illinois Seed Trade Association and Illinois Crop Improvement Association on June 22nd. To register print or download the forms on the Illinois Crop events page or call the office at 217-359-4053. To learn more, check out the schedule of events.

August 9th - Seed Analyst Meeting

Save the Date! The Illinois Seed Trade Seed Analyst Liaison Committee will have its fall workshop at Wyffels Hybrids on August 9th. More information as the final agenda and meeting arrangements are finalized.

Legislative Updates

The spring session is set to end on May 19th. All attention has turned to the state budget. Legislation of interest to the seed industry are listed below.

HB1440 - PRETREATED SEED BAN-ETHANOL, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall produce ethanol using seeds that have been treated with a pesticide. HB1440 passed out of the House on a 77-36 vote.

HB3726 - DISPOSAL OF PRETREATED SEEDS, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that any manufactured seed that has been treated with a pesticide and that is to be disposed of must be disposed of at a permitted hazardous waste disposal site. HB3726 was not called in House AG Committee.

HB3800 - RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDES, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that the defining of "Restricted Use Pesticide" also includes any pesticide with one or more of its uses classified as restricted by order of the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture or any pesticide containing Dicamba (3,6-dichloro-2-methoxybenzoic acid) or 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid). HB3800 was not called in House Environment Committee.

SB187 - PESTICIDES-NEONICOTINOIDS, Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that, on and after January 1, 2024, no pesticide containing a neonicotinoid may be used outdoors on any land owned or maintained by the State, except for use in structural pest control or abatement of non-native insect borers, subject to specified restrictions. Provides that the provisions do not prohibit: (i) the use of seeds that are pretreated with neonicotinoids on public lands owned or maintained by the State; (ii) the use of neonicotinoids on property belonging to a public institution of higher education; or (iii) the use of neonicotinoids for wood preservation. Defines "neonicotinoid". Provides that "Restricted Use Pesticide" does not include a pesticide containing a neonicotinoid that is applied by a licensed applicator or certified technician working in structural pest control. SB187 was not called in Senate Ag Committee.

In case you missed it! (May)

Mexico has revised its ban on GM corn, but the discussions are still ongoing. "The new decree, modified and issued in

February 2023, eliminated the deadline to ban GM corn for animal feed and industrial use— the new decree instead retains plans to prohibit use of grain for human consumption, as well as the glyphosate ban. In addition, the new decree also continues to maintain the prohibition of planting GM corn on Mexican soil." Read more at [SeedWorld](#).

Leaders from Bioceres Crop Solutions were in D.C. recently to meet with stakeholders regarding the intended commercial cultivation of their drought tolerant GM wheat in the U.S. in the next four to five years. The product is now permitted as a food item in the U.S. Grain or food containing this trait is permitted to be imported into the U.S. with no regulatory restrictions. Cultivation approvals for the HB4 wheat trait are still under development.

NAMA joined other agriculture and university stakeholders in supporting \$2.5 million for aflatoxin mitigation research by the USDA Agricultural Research Service in FY 2024.

The [letter notes](#) that climate change will further exacerbate the aflatoxin problem in corn. Research by Kansas State and three other universities suggests that 89.5% of corn-growing counties in 15 U.S. states will experience increased aflatoxin contamination from 2031 to 2040. Read more at [Farm Progress](#).

An additional 20,000 acres were added to the 2023 Fall Cover for Spring Savings program in Illinois. According to Director Costello the applied-for acreage set a record of 182,688 acres (Jan.15 deadline). The additional acreage announced by the Illinois Department of Agriculture brings the available acreage to 160,000. Read more at [Farm Week](#).

June 1st

Aug 9th - Save the Date – Seed Analyst Liaison Committee

Seed analysts - Wyffels Hybrids will be hosting the Illinois Seed Trade Association's Seed Analyst Liaison Committee on August 9th. Agenda and meeting details are being developed. If you have any seed testing or ISTA Referee topics, you would like to see addressed please reply to this email or contact a committee member or legacy contact.

- Clinton Naugle, IFSI and Illinois Seed Trade Association Board Representative
- Steve Beals, Illinois Crop Improvement
- Angie Croft, GROWMARK
- Laura Donaldson, Indiana Crop Improvement.
- Brad Johnson, Bayer
- Ryan Keever, AgReliant

- Melissa Phillips, Bayer
- Mike Simpson, Illinois Department of Agriculture

A Look Back at the Objectives of the Committee

In 1985 the following objectives were established by the Illinois Seed Trade Association.

Seed Analyst Liaison Committee Objectives:

1. Discuss and aid in problems concerning agricultural seeds.
2. Hold seminars as needed for seed testing problems.
3. Assist seed producers when agricultural seed problems arise.

The objectives and responsibilities were expanded in subsequent years to include the following.

Functions of ISTA Liaison Committee Seed Analysts:

1. To meet at least twice yearly.
2. Review problems arising in seed analytic laboratories within the state and with interstate commerce.
3. Promote means of solving the problems through workshops, referee samples, laboratory visitation, and general meetings.
4. Establish rules or guidelines by which the committee operates.
5. Elect necessary officers to carry out the functions of the committee.
6. Report to the Board of Directors of ISTA, the actions of the committee at the regular meeting of the board preceding the annual meeting of ISTA. Specifically, the incoming president of ISTA needs to know the officers and members of the Liaison Committee in order to complete his list of committees for publishing in the membership list of ISTA.
7. The chairman of the Liaison Committee should report all meetings and either the original or a copy of such reports should go to the office of the ISTA Executive Secretary-Treasurer for filing as permanent records of the association.

Responsibilities of ISTA

1. Appoint a representative of ISTA Board of Directors to the Liaison Committee ex-officio as for all other committees of the association.
2. The ISTA board member so appointed should, if possible, attend all meetings of the Liaison Committee or specify another board member to do so.

Be sure to join us on August 9th, in part, to help chart the future of this committee, its responsibilities, and objectives.

June 20th

June 21 - ISTA Golf!

Golfers - we will see you on Wednesday, June 21, at the University of Illinois golf course located at 800 Hartwell Drive, Savoy, IL. 9 am Registration, 9:30 am putting contest and 10 am shotgun start.

June 22 - Annual Meetings

Join us at the I-Hotel & Conference Center on Thursday, June 22, starting with a noon meal followed by updates from the U of I, ASTA, IDOA, and ISTA Lobbyist. ISTA and Illinois Crop Annual Business meetings immediately following the speakers. Learn about the industry from the experts and share your voice!

June 27th

Referee Data

Please submit your data for the 2023 referee by Friday June 30th. Data not received by June 30th will not be included in the statistical analysis that will be presented on August 9th. Be sure to accurately submit your data. Some previously submitted data are over 100%. We will be contacting those who appear to have impossible data. Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their data!

Aug 9th - Preliminary Workshop Agenda!

Seed analysts - Wyffels Hybrids will be hosting the Illinois Seed Trade Association's Seed Analyst Liaison Committee Workshop on August 9th. Here is the preliminary agenda.

- 2023 Referee Results Review – Eunsoo Choe
- Seed Certification – Sarah Wilbanks
- Basics of Genetic testing – Brian Beal or Brad Johnson
- Mixing products for bioassay testing – TBA
- HPLC – seed treatment analysis – Molly Richeson
- Proper Sampling Techniques – Doug Miller, Steve Beals, Chuck Cawley
- GA21/NK603 testing issues – Dave Rambow
- Seed ID – Laura Donaldson
- Committee Structure, Future, & Leadership Discussion
- Wyffels presentation to the group and plant tour.

Be sure to join us on August 9th, in part, to help chart the future of this committee, its responsibilities, and

objectives. A final agenda and registration form for the workshop will be sent at a later date.

July 11th

Registration – Seed Analyst Workshop

Please register by July 26 for meal planning purposes!! The workshop will be August 9, 8:30 am, at Wyffels Hybrids, 740 E. Henry Street, Atkinson, IL. See below for additional meeting details; agenda, parking, building entrance (we will be using the tour parking and tour entrance shown on the map below).

Aug 9th – Preliminary Workshop Agenda!

Seed analysts – Wyffels Hybrids will be hosting the Illinois Seed Trade Association's Seed Analyst Liaison Committee Workshop on August 9th.

- 8:30 am Welcome – Jacob Wyffels
- 2023 Referee Results Review – Eunsoo Choe
- Seed Certification – Sarah Wilbanks
- Basics of Genetic Testing – Brian Beal or Brad Johnson
- Mixing Products for Bioassay Testing – Melissa Philips
- HPLC – Seed Treatment Analysis – Molly Richeson
- Proper Sampling Techniques – Chuck Cawley
- GA21/NK603 Testing Issues – Dave Rambow
- Seed ID & Germination – Tom Mager
- Committee Structure, Future, & Leadership Discussion – Doug Miller
- Wyffels Plant Tour

July 18th

ISTA Golf Raises \$6,000

The ISTA Golf Committee is proud to announce that this year's outing was a success raising \$6,000 for the Scholarship Fund. The endowment at the University of Illinois Foundation was redefined by the board of directors earlier this year and has set a new course for student awards and ISTA fundraising. Be sure to join us next year as a donor, sponsor, golfer, or all of the above - it's a team effort. Special thanks to the golf committee, Clinton Naugle, Josh Wilken, and Shawn Lewis as well as Bob Jackson for his work with the University of Illinois Foundation.

USDA Changes Soybean Grading Standards

If you are aware of the color variations that have been observed with Enlist E3 Soybeans, please take note that the USDA has revised its grading standards. In a press release the USDA stated that it is “removing Soybeans of Other

Colors (SBOC)" as an official grade-determining factor. The decision was "based on numerous requests from representatives of U.S. soybean producers and grain traders" The change is effective September 1, 2023. SBOC determinations will remain available upon request for informational purposes. For more information check out the Soybeans of Other Colors Resource Page | Agricultural Marketing Service

Craig Newman Honored

Craig Newman, Past President of the Illinois Seed Dealers Association (now Illinois Seed Trade Association) was recently honored. ASTA's Lifetime Honorary Member Award is one of the highest awards bestowed by the association and is in recognition of untiring service to ASTA, as well as the seed industry. This year's award was given to Craig Newman, AgReliant Genetics/Finding Black Ink, LLC.

The former President & CEO of AgReliant Genetics, Craig's career began with seven years spent at Procter & Gamble in Ohio. He then entered the seed industry at Akin Seed Company, in 1979 in St. Francisville, Illinois, and spent over 40 years in our industry, with various positions at Akin Seed and AgriGold Hybrids, including General Manager. His final role was as President and CEO of AgReliant Genetics. Craig served as President of the Illinois Seed Dealers and as Central Region Vice President and Chairman of the ASTA Board of Directors.

August 8th

Seed Analyst Liaison Workshop Reminder

The Illinois Seed Trade Association's Seed Analyst Liaison Committee will have its fall workshop at Wyffels Hybrids on August 9th starting at 8:30 am in Atkinson, Illinois. We have a great lineup of speakers and information for seed analysts from across the industry - More information.

Meet ISTA President Bob Jackson

Bob Jackson was elected President of the Illinois Seed Trade Association during the Annual meeting held on June 22, 2023. Bob started with Wyffels Hybrids in the pollination nurseries in 1983 while still in school near his home farm. He joined Wyffels after obtaining his degrees from the University of Illinois in 1988. Bob's current role is Corn Breeder. He and his wife, Annette, live on the farm Bob grew up on near Annawan, Illinois. Bob and Annette have three grown daughters and two grandchildren. They enjoy visiting, spending time with family, and farming the home farm with Bob's parents.

Meet Director Matt Shipton

Matt Shipton joined the Illinois Seed Trade Board of Directors in June. Born and raised in Delavan, Illinois, and still residing on the family farm, Matt has over 30 years of experience in the industry. Matt has been with MayerSeedine as a broker since 2012. Before his current role, Matt served in production, product management, licensing, and related roles. He and his wife, Stacey, have three children – their youngest will be a Senior at Delavan High this year. Matt and Stacey are also expecting their first grandchild in December. "A joyful use of their free time." For more back-story (way back) on Matt Shipton, check out "Roots of Hybrid Corn Trace to Tazewell County" in the July 3rd edition of FarmWeek .



Josh Wilken of ProHarvest Seeds (left), ISTA Immediate Past President 2022-2023, receives the President's Award from Bob Jackson of Wyffels Hybrids (right), newly elected ISTA President 2023-2024 at the 2023 Annual Meeting.



2023-24 ISTA Board of Directors. Left to Right: John Nadler, Greenleaf Genetics (Vice President), Clinton Naugle, IFSI, Josh Wilken, ProHarvest Seeds (Past President), Bob Jackson, Wyffels Hybrids (President), David Dunk, Hubner Industries (Secretary), Shawn Lewis, Lewis Seed Farms (Treasurer), Doug Miller (Executive Secretary-Treasurer). Not pictured Matt Shipton, MayerSeedLine (Director), Kevin (KJ) Johnson (Lobbyist).

In case you missed it! (August 8th)

Aaron Hager recently told FarmWeek that "What the EPA is proposing to do eventually will impact every pesticide application in the state of Illinois" read more at [FarmWeek - EPA Endangered Species Protection](#)

Red crown rot in soybean is beginning to gain the attention of Illinois producers. Carl Bradley recently shared with FarmWeek that Saltro seed treatment is labeled for red crown rot in Illinois and surrounding states. The greatest risk is in later-planted and double-crop soybean fields. [FarmWeek - Red Crown Rot](#)

Seed World recently reported on USDA AMS' new portal where complaints can be submitted for investigations of mislabeled seed. "All growers deserve to participate in a transparent, vibrant, and competitive market. The USDA Farmer Seed Liaison Initiative provides a point of contact within the USDA that can help those who work with seeds navigate a complex system." [Seed World - Farmer Liaison Initiative](#)

On July 21st FSA Executive Director Scott Halpin announced that Adams, Hancock, Pike, Randolph and Schuyler Counties were authorized for emergency grazing use on all eligible Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres during the Primary Nesting Season due to extreme drought conditions. [USDA FSA - Emergency Grazing](#)

The USDA has revised its grading standards for color variations including those that have been observed with [Enlist E3 Soybeans](#). The change is effective September 1, 2023. For more information check out the [Soybeans of Other Colors Resource Page | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)

August Meeting Dates

Agriculture Day Illinois State Fair - August 11, 2023 (Fri) - Illinois State Fair

Illinois Wheat Association August 23, 2023 (Wed) - Summer Wheat Forum - Sparta, IL. Events - Illinois Wheat Association

The MAGIE show August 23-24, 2023 (Wed-Thur) - supports the best equipment offerings in the industry and brings together the best companies and employees in the crop production supply and service sector. MAGIE | Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association (ifca.com)

August 15th



ISTA Seed Analyst Meeting Group Wyffels 2023.

Seed Analyst Liaison Committee Workshop

The Illinois Seed Trade Association's Seed Analyst Liaison Committee held its first post-pandemic workshop on August 9th at Wyffels Hybrids in Atkinson, Illinois.

The agenda included information relevant to seed quality, sampling, and testing. One of the focal points was the results of the most recent germination testing referee. Dr. Eunsoo Choe, Illinois Crop Improvement's Research Coordinator, also presented the statistical analysis of the past seven years of data from the referee. The analysis showed that 7% of the test results were out of tolerance. Considering the wide range of experience and staff changes at participating laboratories over the past seven years, the referee participants are striving for fair and equitable results for the seed trade.

The audience included almost forty seed industry professionals from nine companies. The committee and ISTA Board of Directors thank the speakers and participants who shared their time, expertise, and perspectives on seed testing.

- Bob Jackson, Wyffels Hybrids, ISTA President – Welcome & Opening Remarks
- Eunsoo Choe, Illinois Crop - Referee Results & Statistical Analysis
- Sarah Wilbanks, AOSCA – Seed Certification
- Brian Beal, AgReliant Genetics – Starch Gel Electrophoresis
- Melissa Phillips, Bayer – Mixing Products for Bioassay Testing
- Jacob Wyffels, Wyffels Hybrids –Importance of Seed Testing and Tour Preview
- Molly Richeson, AgReliant Genetics – Seed Treatment Analysis UHPLC
- Mike Boston, Illinois Department of Agriculture – Proper Sampling Techniques
- Emily Morrison, Indiana Crop Improvement Association – Seedling Evaluation and Seed ID Exercise with Slido
- Sue McCauley and Jamie Bellagamba – Host Site Coordination
- Nathan Miller – Host IT Support

- Rodney Gilbertt – Host Laboratory Tour
- Tim Gould – Host Plant Tour

Check out some of the photos from the workshop below. If you are interested in serving on the Seed Analyst Liaison Committee, please contact Doug Miller or an ISTA Board Member.

In case you missed it! (August 15th)

As harvest begins across the country, Illinois Seed Trade Association reminds stakeholders to take the proper steps to ensure treated seed does not enter the grain supply. It's always important to completely remove, and properly dispose of, all treated seed from containers and equipment used to handle harvested grain. For educational resources on treated seed stewardship, including videos, graphics, one-pagers and FAQs, visit: seed-treatment-guide.com/ Learn more about treated seed benefits and safety at www.betterseed.org/treated-seeds/.

NAMA recently updated the milling industry on the dispute between the US and Mexico and biotech corn. The US has apparently rejected Mexico's request to conduct joint research into GMOs and human health citing sound science and three decades of evidence that GMOs are equivalent to conventional crops. Read more at [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com).

August Meeting Dates

Illinois Wheat Association August 23, 2023 (Wed) - Summer Wheat Forum - Sparta, IL. Events - Illinois Wheat Association

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Tim Gould leading a tour of Wyffels Hybrids' new \$100M expansion featured in the most recent edition of Seed Today.



Melissa Phillips, Bayer (and current SCST President) leads a hands-on bioassay session.



Brian Beal of AgReliant Genetics leads a talk on electrophoresis.

September 5th

The Passing of Jesse Smart - Former ISDA President
 Jesse R. Smart, age 84, and former Mayor of Bloomington, IL, passed away on Friday, August 25, 2023, at 12:58 AM in Glendale, AZ, where he had resided for the past two years. His funeral service will be 10:30 AM Wednesday September 6, 2023, at College Park Christian Church, 116 N Cottage Ave., Normal IL. Rev. Brent Salm will be officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Stanford, IL. Visitation will be 5:00 PM-7:00 PM Tuesday September 5, 2023, at Calvert & Metzler Memorial Home, Bloomington, IL Memorial contributions may be made to College Park Christian Church, Central IL Chapter of the American Red Cross (Jesse was a lifelong blood donor), or Special Olympics Illinois.

Jesse was born April 29, 1939, in Pearl, IL, the son of Kenneth and Bertha Smart. He married Susan Ann Stover

on July 16, 1961, in Centralia, IL. She passed away on August 6, 2021. He is survived by two children, Deborah (Matthew) Barton of Phoenix, AZ, and Gregory (Michelle) Smart of Buckeye, AZ.

Jesse was preceded in death by his wife and one infant son, Jeffery.

Jesse graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in Ag Education. Jesse taught Vocational Agriculture & Biology at Stanford High School in Stanford, IL. He had worked at Funks Seed/Ciba Geigy Co., Bloomington, IL, and was President/Owner of Smart Seeds Inc in Bloomington, IL. Jesse served on the Bloomington City Council from 1978-1985. He served as Mayor of the City of Bloomington from 1985-1997. He served on many various commissions and boards including the Illinois State Board of Elections from 2001-2015 where he served as Chairman & Vice Chairman for 8 years. He was previously a member of College Park Christian Church in Normal. He was Past President of the Illinois Seed Dealers Assoc. (now Illinois Seed Trade Assoc.), Chairman of the Farm Seed Division, American Seed Trade Assoc. He was named McLean County Agri Businessman of the Year in 1989. He was past member & President of the Prairie Aviation Air Show. He was Past Captain of the Shrine "Tin Lizzie Patrol" and Past President and member of the Young Men's Club, and past Treasurer of the Mosbacher 4-H Scholarship Fund. He was named a 2017 History Maker Honoree by The McLean County Museum of History. He served many years as Executive Director/Treasurer of the Western Seed Assoc. He had volunteered for the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts and was a past member of the Cultural Commission.

The family would like to thank the staff at Crystal Ridge Assisted Living in Glendale, AZ, for their loving care of Jesse for the past 16 months.

Jesse was a loving husband and father. He never met a stranger. He will be missed by all who knew him. Please visit Calvert & Metzler to share a memory or leave a tribute.

September 6th

ISTA Referee 2023-2024

We are getting back on track for our normal November - February ISTA Referee!

If you would like to participate in this year's Referee, please select the link below, fill out the form and send it in as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

September 12th

High Plains Wheat Mosaic Virus (HPWMoV) Request for Funding.

The Seed Science Foundation (SSF) is requesting funding from the seed industry for some critical work. The work aims to keep winter locations like Chile a viable option for everyone in the industry, from plant breeders to seed producers. According to a recent email from the SSF, the "Systematic investigation of the risk of seed transmission of HPWMoV is urgently needed to inform phytosanitary requirements for U.S. seed trade and export and develop management or mitigation strategies." The SSF is requesting seed companies to consider supporting this key research through a 3-year commitment of funds. The SSF will match dollar-for-dollar the total funding commitment made by SSF members, up to \$30,000 per year. Please consider the importance of this research and its potential impact on the continuance of pipeline advancements, corn seed production, and delivery. The SSF has set a deadline of December 1, 2023 to follow-up with the researchers regarding the SSF's funding commitment. Please confirm your funding commitment with Sam Thomas (SSF Research Chair) or Ric Dunkle (ASTA Seed Health Director) by November 15. Please get in touch with Doug Miller or Amber Sheets if you need Sam or Ric's contact information. This work will better position the industry in its response to mitigating the HPWMoV impact and facilitate conversations regarding seed movement with key import and export NPPOs.

In case you missed it! (September)

Illinois rose to the No. 6 wheat-producing state in the nation this year with a record yield of 84 bushels per acre. Illinois farmers harvested 65.5 million bushels of wheat this summer, up 48% compared to the previous crop. Read more about Illinois Wheat at [Farm Week](#).

NAMA recently shared that U.S. wheat exports for the 2022-23 crop year will reach only 700 million bushels of hard red wheat (HRW)—a 52-year low. Conversely, soft red wheat (SRW) shows a record 170 million bushels used for food. The price spread between SRW and HRW, along with the higher protein levels of HRW in drought-stricken regions of the Great Plains, is expected to encourage blending by Millers to achieve target protein levels. Learn more as [USDA's Wheat Outlook](#)

Bayer will contribute \$500,000 to fire relief efforts on the island Maui – a cash donation of \$250,000 alongside a

donation of essential healthcare products valued at \$250,000 under its vision, 'Health for All, Hunger for None.' Read more at [Seed Today](#).

Bacteria have been evolving genetic mechanisms to cope with stress for millions of years. Micro and nano-plastics in soils from mulch lining vegetable beds, PVC pipes, polyethylene coverings, and other plastics may evoke genetic changes in bacteria. Pratik Banerjee, associate professor in FSHN and Illinois Extension specialist, shared with Lab Manager that, "We have also shown bacteria may become more virulent in the presence of plastics, in addition to becoming more resistant to antimicrobials." So far, the phenomenon has been documented in water or aqueous environments and is only hypothetical in agricultural soil. The authors point out that many foodborne pathogens make it onto produce from their native home in the soil. Still, nano-plastics and antibiotic-resistant bacteria could be small enough to enter roots and plant tissues—where they are impossible to wash away. The topic of micro and nano-plastics is being addressed by [ASTA's Seed Treatment and Environment Committee](#). Read more at [Lab Manager](#).

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) recently commented on Neonicotinoids in a recent legislative update. ISA shared that "When introduced, neonics proved to be more effective than other insecticides on the market. They [neonics] often replaced more toxic alternatives and helped minimize the potential for environmental exposure to non-target species." The Illinois Soybean Association update went on to say that 80% of soybeans and 90% of corn seed have a neonic seed coating" and "In recent years, farmers and manufacturers have made considerable efforts to minimize any further risk of exposure to non-target insects."

October 17th

Treated Article Exemption

ISTA has received advance notice from ASTA of a proposed EPA rule that could directly impact the Treated Article Exemption for seed. The Treated Article Exemption is the lynchpin to the seed industry's use of registered pesticides. Please let us know if you would like to provide any input or comments. For more information, please contact Doug Miller or an ISTA board member.

EPA and the Endangered Species List

The Illinois Soybean Growers (ISG) is circulating a petition in an effort to push back on the EPA's proposed herbicide strategy to be implemented by 2024. Among other details, the "ISG is most concerned about a new policy on fields

with subsurface drainage (tile drainage), which would require construction of wetlands/retention ponds to prevent all drainage (water) from flowing off-site." Additional points of concern include criminal penalties, incentivizing a surveillance state, establishing pesticide exclusion zones, and increasing drift buffers. To learn more and sign the petition, use the [ISG Form](#).

Western Seed Association & ASTA Forage, Turf and Conservation Meetings

The "Western" is October 30 – November 1 in Kansas City, Missouri. ASTA sessions on November 1 include updates from Noller Herbert, NRCS Deputy Under Secretary, Cover Crop Trends by Dr Rob Myers, Director of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture, and from the farm seed perspective Expanding Markets and Yield for Sorghum by Sarah Sexton-Bowser, Managing Director of the Center for Sorghum Improvement are just part of the day's agenda. To see the full agenda, visit ASTA events and the [Forage, Turf, and Conservation Seed Conference Page](#).

Annual Meeting and Golf Dates Set

The annual golf outing and membership meeting of the Illinois Seed Trade Association will be held Wednesday and Thursday, June 12 and 13. The 2023 golf outing generated a six-thousand-dollar addition to the Lang and Burlison endowment for student scholarships. Named for Dr. William L. Burlison and Professor Alvin L. Lang, this scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students in the Department of Crop Sciences, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois. Candidates who are selected must demonstrate scholarship, leadership, and evidence of professional promise.

In case you missed it! (October)

CropLife recently reported that "Delayed spring planting can help reduce the severity of [Red Crown Rot] infections. Additionally, crop rotation out of soybean for at least two years can reduce disease-causing inoculum. Farmers may also want to manage pathogenic nematodes, which damage roots and create access points for soil-borne pathogens like red crown rot." [Learn more at Will Red Crown Rot in Midwestern Soybeans Impact Yield? - CropLife](#).

NIASMA recently announced that the Montana Department of Agriculture has petitioned for *Ventenata dubia* to be added to the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NIASMA) prohibited weed list due to its potential to quickly displace native plant species, degrade agricultural land, increase soil erosion and

decrease wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. Learn more at [Know Your Invasives: Ventenata dubia - NAISMA](#).

AgWeb reports that Low Mississippi River levels have impacted soybean exports, freight rates, and basis levels, pushing more corn to rail. Read more at [Farm Journal – AgWeb](#)

The Panama Canal continues to alter shipping times under drought conditions. The 20-year drought affecting the freshwater lake used to augment the canal's water levels may continue into 2024. Grain exports from the U.S. and seed produced in South America during winter in locations like Chile navigate the canal. Read more at [The Wall Street Journal](#).

Mystery Seeds return to Michigan. MDARD is warning anyone who receives them not to open or plant them as these seeds could be potentially invasive to Michigan plants and livestock. USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service is investigating the situation across the nation. Read more at [FarmProgress.com](#)

A reminder that after Oct. 31, employers who continue to use the outdated Form I-9 will be subject to penalties. Learn more at [Federalregister.gov](#) and access the new form at [Uscis.gov](#)

October 31st

Thank you for participating in our 2023-2024 ISTA Referee!

Your samples shipped out yesterday and they will be arriving soon!

Included in the sample boxes are your November Referee instructions. I have also included that information below.

November 2023 Instructions

2023-24 Illinois Seed Trade Association Germination Referee

Instructions: Complete one survey for each test e.g. Soybean Cold Test for November is 1 survey response. Test results are to be averaged and reported as whole percentages. The total of the components must equal 100%. Enter your test information and finish the survey. Enter additional tests by revisiting Survey Monkey using the link provided. The link will also be available on the "Thank You" page of the survey. You cannot enter multiple tests in the same survey, you need to revisit the survey for each test. This is a total of 24 survey responses based on a full participation level of 3 crops x 2 test types x 4 months.

This method provides the best download from the system for analysis.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out!

December 21st

Another calendar year will soon be ending. As those of us in agriculture know, another season is just beginning, depending on your role or where you are in the world. Regardless of how you define a year or a season, the challenges and changes remain our true constant. Through it all, we strive to provide dependable and practical results that support your business decisions.

I am grateful to have the distinct honor of leading the talented team at Illinois Crop Improvement. This team remains unwavering in its commitment to providing superior services and resources to help you address the challenges and changes that come with every calendar year, crop year, or breeding cycle.

We are honored to collaborate with you as a trusted service provider. On behalf of the entire team at Illinois Crop Improvement and the Illinois Seed Trade Association, I wish you and yours a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Please note that we will be closed on December 25th and 26th in observance of the holiday.

With gratitude,

Doug Miller