

SIFTINGS

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NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO SEED GROWERS ASSOCIATION

From The Director

Annual Meeting/Colorado Ag Classic set for December 6-7th

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Colorado Seed Industry and the Colorado Seed Growers Associations will be held December 6th at the Four Points by Sheraton, Denver Southeast (I-25 and Hampden Ave.). The following day, Thursday, December 7th our Associations will participate in the **2006 Colorado Ag Classic**. This will be the second annual event jointly hosted by the Colorado Seed Growers Association, Colorado Seed Industry Association, Colorado Wheat, and Colorado Sunflower Administrative Committee, this year with additional hosts Colorado Corn and the Colorado Sorghum Producers Association.

The CSGA/CSIA Annual Meeting offers you a chance to solidify relationships with contacts old and new and participate in your seed industry in a variety of committees and business meetings. Any items brought up at District meetings will be discussed and voted on during the CSGA Business meeting.

The Colorado Ag Classic is expected to nearly double in size this year with the addition of two more groups (Corn and Sorghum). Attendance will provide you with even greater networking opportunities than in the past and excellent continuing education speakers.

The new **Colorado Governor-Elect, Bill Ritter** is confirmed to speak at 9:15 am. Keynote Speaker Dr. James

Ladlie of ProfitPro, LLC, will follow with a presentation that utilizes in-depth agronomic information combined with new technologies to help producers maximize their profits while managing risk. Breakout sessions after lunch will feature presentations on ProfitPro, cellulosic ethanol, South Platte watershed issues, Republican River watershed issues, the 2007 Farm Bill, USDA-RMA crop insurance and a CSU research project aimed at Remaining Profitable during Drought.

Early registration for the Colorado Ag Classic postmarked by December 1st is \$75 per person or \$125 for husband and wife. Registrations postmarked after December 1st and at the door are \$100 per person and \$150 for husband and wife.

Rooms can be reserved at the Sheraton by Colorado Ag Classic attendees at a special rate of \$89 per night plus tax (single or double), until December 1st (and after that date on a space available basis). Space is limited, so reserve your room now by calling 303-758-7000. You must mention the Colorado Ag Classic to receive the discounted room rate. For more information please contact the CSGA Office at 970-491-6202. We are looking forward to seeing you at this year's event!

Farmer's Yield Initiative Update

The Farmer's Yield Initiative aims to educate producers on the Plant Variety Protection Act and enforce PVP rights of variety owners. Mark Henry of Henry Law Firm, which is heading up the FYI effort, will attend the CWRFB Board of Directors Meeting

on December 5th at 3pm preceding the Annual Meeting. Wheat seed growers interested in learning more about the FYI campaign are invited to attend, ask questions, and learn how FYI can benefit farmers and the seed industry.

AGR-Lite Insurance Now Available in Colorado

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns in early November announced expansion of the Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) plan of insurance, into the states of Ariz., Colo., Kan., Minn., Mont., Nev., N.M., Utah, Wis., and Wyo. With this expansion, AGR-Lite will now be available in 28 states for the 2007 insurance year. The CSGA wrote a letter of support in March 2006 to the USDA-RMA, along with many other agricultural organizations, encouraging expansion into Colorado.

"This insurance is a useful risk management tool, particularly for small diversified producers," said Johanns. "It is based on individual farm revenue, so producers are offered a great deal of flexibility in how they manage their farm or ranch operations."

AGR-Lite is a whole-farm revenue plan of insurance, developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, providing protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and revenue fluctuations. Most farm-raised crops, animals, and animal products are eligible for protection. *(continued on page 3)*

2006 CSGA & CSIA Annual Meeting and Colorado Ag Classic

~Schedule~

Tuesday, December 5th

9:00 am - 3:00 pm CSGA Board of Directors Meeting
 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm CWRP Meeting & Farmer's Yield Initiative Update
 - All Seed Growers Invited

Wednesday, December 6th

8:00 am - 11:30 am CSGA & CSIA Committee Meetings
 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Joint Luncheon
 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm CSGA & CSIA General Session and Affiliated Reports
 1:45 pm - 2:45 pm CSGA Business Meeting
 2:45 pm - 3:00 pm Joint Coffee Break
 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm CSIA Business Meeting
 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm Legislative Session and Reception

Thursday, December 7th - Colorado Ag Classic

7:30 am Registration
 8:00 am Workers' Compensation Dividend Program Safety Meeting
 9:00 am Video Welcome
 9:15 am Colorado Governor Elect Bill Ritter
 10:00 am Coffee Break
 10:15 am Dr. James Ladlie, Founder and President - ProfitPro
 11:30 am Awards Luncheon

Breakout Sessions

1:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Water	ProfitPro	Cellulosic Ethanol
2:05 pm - 2:50 pm	Farm Bill	Water	Cellulosic Ethanol
2:50 pm - 3:10 pm	Coffee Break		
3:10 pm - 3:55 pm	Farm Bill	Crop Insurance	Remaining Profitable During Drought
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Workers' Compensation Dividend Program	Safety Meeting	

2006 Annual Meeting and Colorado Ag Classic

***Four Points by Sheraton Denver Southeast
303-758-7000***

I-25 and Hampden Ave.

December 6th and 7th



AGR-Lite (cont.)

The plan uses a producer's 5-year historical farm average revenue, as reported on IRS tax returns (Schedule F or equivalent forms) and the current year's farm plan, as a basis to provide a level of guaranteed revenue for the insurance period. The AGR-Lite plan can stand alone or be used in conjunction with most other federal crop insurance plans. It provides insurance coverage for multiple agricultural commodities under one insurance product and establishes revenue as a common denominator of insurance for all agricultural commodities on that farm. Prior to this expansion, AGR-Lite was already available in the states of Alaska, Conn., Del., Idaho, Maine, Md., Mass., N.H., N.J., N.Y., N.C., Ore., Pa., R.I., Vt., Va., Wash., and W.Va. More detailed information about AGR-Lite is available on the RMA Web site at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov>. Policy materials will also be available soon at the RMA website.

Colorado Ag Classic Speakers

The 2006 Colorado Ag Classic has a great lineup of speakers arranged for Thursday, December 7th. Here are just a few examples of the speakers you will be able to learn from at this year's meeting.

Dr. Reagan Waskom – Moderator for Water sessions

Reagan Waskom currently serves as the Director of the Colorado Water Resources Research Institute and Colorado State University Water Center. Dr. Waskom is a member of the Department of Soil & Crop Sciences faculty and serves as the Cooperative Extension Water Resource Specialist at CSU. He has worked on various agricultural and water related research and outreach programs in Colorado for the past 20 years.

Update on the Republican River Compact Settlement - Adaptation and Change**Ken Knox - Chief Deputy State Engineer**

Ken Knox is the Chief Deputy State Engineer for the State of Colorado. Ken is a native of Colorado from the San Luis Valley. He holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University. Ken is the Compact Coordinator and Engineer for the nine Interstate River Compacts and one International Treaty that Colorado is a party to and is responsible for litigation and water supply/engineering activities for the Colorado Division of Water Resources. Dr. Knox is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Denver and teaches graduate-level classes in environmental protection law and other natural resources planning and management classes.

Stan Murphy - General Manager**Republican River Water Conservation District**

After serving fifteen years as the District Manager for the Plains and East Cheyenne Ground Water Management Districts in eastern Colorado, Stan became the initial General Manager for the Republican River Water Conservation District in January of 2005. The District was established by the Colorado State Legislature to assist the State in complying with the limitations and duties imposed upon the state by the Republican River Compact. In less than two years after the district was formed the Republican River CREP program was approved, and is being utilized along with the EQIP program and water leases to persuade producers to voluntarily take wells out of production, through financial incentives, as a way to decrease consumptive use and increase stream flows.

Lessons Learned on the South Platte River - Where Do We Go From Here?**Hal Simpson - State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources**

Hal Simpson was appointed State Engineer in 1992. As State Engineer, Mr. Simpson is responsible for the direction and management of the Division of Water Resources, which has a staff of 253 FTE and a budget of approximately \$21 million. The Division is responsible for distribution and administration of water in accordance with statutes and interstate compacts; the implementation of a statewide dam safety program; the permitting of the use of ground water and construction of wells; the collection and dissemination of data on water use and streamflow; and conducting various studies concerning water resources and the availability of water supplies.

Greg W. Hertzke - Water Acquisitions Manager
Central Colorado Water Conservancy District

Greg Hertzke, a native of Greeley, has been CCWCD's Water Acquisitions Manager since 2005. Along with the duties involved in lining up water purchases and leases, he also deals with Legislative issues for the district, and is the editor of the Central Waterline, published twice each year.

Remaining Profitable During Drought

In the West, farms are often faced with limited water resources whether it is due to drought, changing water laws or competition with other users for scarce water resources. This breakout session is designed to offer short and long term strategies for dealing with limited water resources both from an agronomic and economic perspective.

Dr. Neil Hansen

Neil Hansen is an Associate Professor of Soil Science at Colorado State University with specialization in soil and water conservation in both dryland and irrigated crop production systems. Dr. Hansen earned his Ph.D. degree from the University of Minnesota. He teaches the senior capstone course in soil and crop management at CSU, advises graduate students, and has achieved success in both research and outreach programs.

Dr. James Pritchett

James Pritchett joined the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University in May of 2001. Dr. Pritchett's primary research and extension efforts are focused on agribusiness management with special attention on a farm's allocation and use of scarce water resources. He is also examining the rural economic impacts of water transfers from agriculture to municipal and industrial use.

ProfitPro

Dr. James S. Ladlie

As the founder and president of ProfitPro, LLC, Dr. James S. Ladlie has dedicated his life's work to developing a renewable farming system that will support and keep family farms functional, profitable and produce healthy crops. With a PhD in Crop Science from Michigan State University, Dr. Ladlie's foresight, research, knowledge and creative solutions have led to a proven crop management system that produces healthy crops and manages risks while maximizing profits. He encourages growers and livestock producers to step outside of their comfort zone and discover alternative ways of farming for profit, health and fun.

Cellulosic Ethanol

Ms. Anna Rath

Director of Business Development, Ceres

Ceres is a plant biotechnology company focused on developing breakthrough plants and plant-based products to deliver sustainable solutions in agriculture, energy production, human health and nutrition. Ceres aims to be a leading global provider of dedicated energy crops. To this end, Ceres has already sequenced over 15,000 full-length switchgrass genes, and begun scaling-up seed for commercial release of its first varieties of enhanced switchgrass, currently planned for 2009. Ceres is working to develop a portfolio of dedicated energy crops appropriate for a broad range of geographies and processing technologies. Anna Rath joined Ceres as Director of Business Development in 2004. In this role she leads Ceres' business development activities ranging from evaluation of new business opportunities to development of collaborations and other business building activities.

2007 Farm Bill Perspectives

David Gillen - Vice Chairman

Public Policy Action Team for National Corn Growers Association

Mr. Gillen along with his wife Carol, owns and operates a no-till grain farm at White Lake, South Dakota. In addition to serving for NCGA, he is Chairman of South Dakota Corn Growers Association, a state director of the SD No-Till Association, and on the Board of Managers of Prairie Ethanol. He also has a pheasant hunting business and hosts groups from all over the United States.

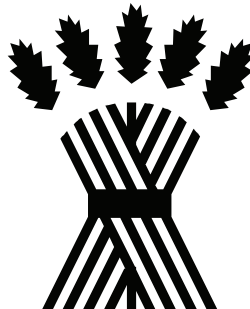
Agronomy Foundation Seed Project Year-End Review

Agronomy Foundation Seed (AFS) sales this fall have been average. Although sales for Bond CL, Hatcher, and the new release of Ripper were good accounting for 73% of sales, only limited seed of the other 11 varieties we carry have moved even with reduced prices. We did have to allocate seed for Ripper by the order deadline limiting maximum orders to 4,000 pounds. Over the past four years sales have been below or right at average leaving AFS in a negative cash flow with a large seed inventory. Since AFS is self-funded project seed sales and contract work for private companies or other universities determines our budget. Currently, just over 51 percent of AFS budget comes directly from seed sales with the rest made up by contract work and salary support from the CSGA. Thus, due to inventory, slow sales, and budget deficit, fewer varieties will be carried /produced in the future, and contract production for private companies will increase. Prairie Red and Lakin are sold out and will no longer be maintained; in addition Akron, Ankor, Avalanche, Prowers 99, Vona, Yuma, and Yumar will no longer be maintained once seed stocks are gone. However, if a grower or group of growers wish for an old variety to be maintained AFS will be willing to grow Foundation seed under contract.

This fall we planted one experimental line (CO01385-A1) for potential release next fall. CO01385-A1 is a hard red winter wheat, with a Yumar/ Arlin pedigree, medium height and maturity, excellent test weight, stripe rust resistance, and average quality. It has been the top yielding entry averaged across the last two years of testing in the advanced dryland and irrigated trials.

We also have two RWA resistant barley varieties that were released this last spring. We will be sending order forms out this coming spring. I want to thank all the growers that purchased seed and continue to support the project.

Agronomy Foundation Seed
Manager
Aaron J. Brown



We've updated our website!

The CSGA website has a brand new look and feel. The website, located under the "Colorado Seed Growers" link at www.seeds.colostate.edu, is part of our effort to bring you timely information about all things related to the seed lab, seed growers, and foundation seed. Here you will find useful links to news items, CSGA Standards and Policies, seed directories, PVP, approved conditioner lists, and more. Suggestions for additions to the site are welcome. Many thanks to Ethan Waltermire, seed lab Manager, for template design, and Kierra Jewell, Extension assistant, for webpage management.

Visit us at www.seeds.colostate.edu!

Siftings Staff

Brad Erker, Director of Seed Programs

Linda Munk, Editor

Siftings is published by the Colorado Seed Growers Association, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO (970) 491-6202

Dates to Know!

November 23rd and 24th ~ Thanksgiving Holiday, CSGA Office Closed

December 1st ~ Wheat Distribution Summaries Due!

December 5th ~ CSGA Board of Directors Meeting

December 6th ~ CSGA & CSIA Annual Meeting

December 7th ~ Colorado Ag Classic

December 25th ~ January 1st ~ Christmas Holiday, CSGA Office Closed



Knowledge to Go Places

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