Welcome to the Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association Newsletter! We are excited to bring the newsletter back and to use it as a resource to keep us all updated on what is happening in our industry.

Speaking of updates on the seed industry, the IEOSA has held two Negotiated Rulemaking meetings with the ISDA to propose a 51 percent increase in the testing fees for the State Seed Lab. This will put the Lab in better balance with surrounding state labs as well as the private sector. The percent is based on adjusting for inflation the past 17-years. The Rules will be before the Legislature for approval during the 2024 Session.

Please also mark your calendars for the upcoming IEOSA Winter Convention on November 28-29 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. I look forward to seeing you all there!
The McGregor Company serves growers in Washington, Idaho and Oregon with the seed, seed care, crop inputs, equipment, research and advice needed to raise healthy, sustainable crops. Their customers throughout the Inland Northwest benefit from 135 years of McGregor expertise and consumers worldwide rely on the crops harvested by dedicated growers and seed suppliers. The McGregor Company has been a member of IEOSA for over 16 years. “The McGregor Company has been in business for well over 100 years, and our business strategy remains the same to this day. We are here as a company to help support our customers. The members of IEOSA are our customers and we strive to ensure that we are supporting them however we can and we believe the IEOSA truly is meeting the issues head on and with resources that few other organizations can compare to,” Richard Fillmore, Seed Care Division Account Manager. McGregor Seed Care has been a big part of helping move the industry forward with research to bring better products to the customers they serve. They have been a great attribute to the IEOSA board, committees, and the overall camaraderie of our events. We are proud to have sponsors like The McGregor company that continue to work to ensure success of the seed industry that we all know and love for generations to come.
IEOSA members gathered in McCall last June for the annual Summer Convention. The fun-filled week included a golf scramble, cornhole tournament, scholarships auction, President's banquet, and so much more! Members participated in several workshops including presentations from Dr. James Woodhall from the University of Idaho on seed disease updates and Ken Cornell from Boise State University on the development of cold atmospheric pressure plasma as it relates to improving seed quality. Attorney General Raul Labrador also joined us to discuss Waters of the United States. Lastly, a new Board of Directors was elected to serve IEOSA for the 2023-2024 year. Congratulations to our new Board of Directors! We appreciate your willingness to lead our organization and look forward to working with you this year. A special thank you goes to our sponsors that made this convention possible. We look forward to seeing everyone at The Shore Lodge next year!
2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Brad Smith, Kimberly Seeds International
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We extend our gratitude to the members of our Board of Directors for dedicating their time and efforts to the service of our organization.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

2021 IEOSA Scholarship Recipient: Kendra Duclos-Gehring

Kendra Duclos-Gehring a 2021 IEOSA scholarship recipient recently graduated from the University of Idaho with a Bachelors degree in Crop Science and minor in Ag Business. She is now working as a Research Associate with Bayer Crop Science in Nampa, Idaho. Kendra and her team are working to develop seed production systems for hybrid wheat. This involves a lot of time spent in the field managing and analyzing small plot experiments. She really enjoys her work, because they are forced to be innovative to launch this new crop for Bayer. Kendra, we are glad to hear that you have found a career in the seed industry! We wish you best of luck in your future endeavors.
A SUMMER OF IMPROVEMENTS
ISDA SEED LAB UPDATE

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture Seed Lab has been hard at work serving Idaho, Oregon, and eight other western states that they receive service seed samples from.

In the past year, the lab performed 7,913 tests on 5,222 samples received.

Numerous changes have taken place at the Seed Lab of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in the past couple of months. Two ISDA employees attended Seed School in Ames, Iowa. After the week long course on germination and purity, ISDA employee Snjezana Dacic is now a Certified Seed Analyst in Purity. ISDA is excited to announce that Ed Barge - a previous temporary ISDA Seed Analyst is now a permanent employee. Not only have they added to their team of employees but they have replaced old germinators, increasing the capacity to germinate more samples. This additional help and technology will ensure the lab keeps their testing turn-around-times as short as possible during the next 6-8 months.

The seed lab has recently implemented various enhancements to its facilities, which are poised to enhance both the efficiency and promptness of the services they offer. Many of the scientists work up to 8 hours per day at their microscopes and workstations. In an effort to alleviate the strain on their bodies and create a more comfortable work environment, the ISDA has implemented adjustable-height workstations for every seed analyst on their team. Additionally, the Seed Lab has achieved energy and cost savings by transitioning the light sources of their walk-in germinators to LED technology.

The IEOSA expresses deep gratitude to the dedicated employees of the ISDA Seed Lab, whose diligent efforts play a vital role in seed production across the Northwest region.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Roger Batt – Executive Director, IEOSA

The past couple of months my associate (Cassidey Plum) and I have been visiting some of our members to gather content for our social media platforms. I thoroughly enjoy visiting our member's organizations and am thrilled to share educational content on the importance of Idaho and Eastern Oregon's seed industries. We have also been working on gathering data to complete an estimate of the value of Idaho’s seed industry and appreciate all those who have helped us in that process. We look forward to sharing our findings with the membership. Looking forward to January and the upcoming legislative session, IEOSA is proposing an increase in Idaho State Department of Agriculture Seed Lab Fees after Negotiated Rulemaking meetings this past summer. This decision will be made early on in the first three weeks of the legislative session. IEOSA is also working with the Coalition for Agriculture’s Future on a piece of farmland preservation legislation. This legislation would incentivize growers to keep their land in agriculture production. This could be big for the seed industry! I look forward to reporting back to the membership on the accomplishments that take place during the 2024 legislative session. Until then, best of luck with harvest!
ASTA Continues to Promote the U.S. Seed Industry

The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) has been busy advocating for science and policy issues across state, federal, and international stages. While you can check out all our activities on our website (betterseed.org), we want to highlight a few.

ASTA had a busy state legislative session tracking bills across all 50 states. ASTA, working closely with partners and stakeholders at the federal and state levels, helped to fend off several bills that would have imposed additional, unnecessary regulatory barriers for seed companies and farmers, especially when it comes to the use of treated seed.

As conversations around the Farm Bill continue to heat up, ASTA remains steadfast in its priorities to protect the U.S. seed industry. ASTA is heavily involved in broader agricultural coalitions such as the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance, the Ag Biotech Alliance, and the Farm Bill Campaign Coalition. These partnerships help amplify ASTA’s voice to the decision makers in both Chambers. Because of these connections as well as the ones within Capitol Hill, ASTA was asked to provide a witness to speak to the Horticulture Title of the Farm Bill. Dr. Margaret Worthington from the University of Arkansas testified to the need for innovation in seeds and plants. This is the second witness ASTA has provided to speak on behalf of the seed industry in Farm Bill related hearings in the Senate. For more information about ASTA’s Farm Bill Priorities, please visit our website: www.betterseed.org/farm-bill.

Finally, ASTA recognized our CSS Conference was much larger than corn, sorghum, and soybean and rebranded it as the Field Crop Seed Conference (FCSC) to be more representative of our attendees. In addition to a new name, the conference has an exciting new location, moving from Chicago to sunny Orlando starting this December. These changes give exhibitors more flexibility in their displays and attendees a refreshed conference agenda. For FCSC registration and exhibitor information please visit www.asta.swoogo.com/fcsc23.
2023 WINTER CONVENTION

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DO YOU HAVE PICTURES OF YOU AT IEOSE EVENTS OR WORKING IN THE SEED INDUSTRY?
SEND THEM TO CASSIDEY@AMGIDAHOCOM