

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

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Rules Governing the Planting of Beans, Other Than Phaseolus Species, in Idaho

July 22, 2015 at 10 am

Jared Stuart, Facilitator

Present: Clyde Butcher, Gentec; Marlon Winger, USDA-NRCS; John Van Der Gieden, Green Cover Seed; Brad McIntyre, Green Cover Seed/McIntyre Farms; Pat Brownfield, ADMEdible Bean; Sean Costello, ISDA; Liz Vavricka, ISDA; Jared Stuart, ISDA; Janis Perry, ISDA recording.

AGENDA ITEMS

WELCOME

Jared Stuart convened the meeting at 10:05 am. He introduced himself and invited the other participants to introduce themselves.

He began discussion of the proposed changes to the rule with page one. In the title "Chapter 23" should be "Chapter 25." He briefly explained the definitions of "Introduction Plots" and "Trial Grounds," which are additions to the rule in subsection 250.

Clyde brought up his concern of zero tolerance for soil in testing for seeds to be planted in Idaho. Jared indicated that we may be able to agree to .05 tolerance for soil for non-Idaho seed. However, soybean cyst nematode has been prevented by having this zero tolerance. Clyde was concerned that dust would be counted as failure to meet the zero tolerance test. Pat explained that all Idaho testing follows AOSA rules for testing seeds and dust did not count, but mud stains do. California tests by the Federal rules which link back to the Association of Official Seed Analysts ("AOSA") rules. Canada uses MMP rules for testing. The group agreed that zero tolerance for Idaho seeds was acceptable as defined by the AOSA standard. If a sample fails testing, it can be cleaned and resubmitted. The group concluded that language would be added to the soil section of the rule that stated soil requirements for seed would only apply to seed imported from outside Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon.

In Section 050 Regulated Articles, Brad asked about cow peas, whether they were capable of spreading a regulated pest as a contaminant. After some initial research, Liz said that yes, they were similar to soy beans in that regard.

Jared indicated that subsections d. and e. of Section 150.03 Imported Seed From Other Than Malheur County, OR were redundant. The group agreed to keep subsection "d" but eliminate "e."

Marlon explained to the group that the USDA-NRCS has been working with growers to improve soil health by encouraging the planting of cover crops. Through the reduction of tillage, the increase of crop diversity, and keeping crops in the soil, erosion will be reduced. This is especially important in Idaho where wind and irrigation increase the possibility of erosion. Brad and John have been supplying a mix of cover crop seeds to about 30 Idaho growers. Soybeans and cow peas add nitrogen back to the soil,

especially after harvesting of wheat. The biological effect of a combination of seeds is advantageous. However, the seeds come from outside Idaho and since they are a mix, testing is difficult.

Pat reminded the group that the rule is in place to safeguard the bean seed industry. Jared stated that there has been no blight in Idaho since about 2006 while in Washington it appeared last year. Brad indicated that once he gets facilities to plant and mix seed in Idaho, testing would not be an issue. Liz stated that the mix cannot include treated seeds or include teff. She would check on Rhizobium inoculation.

Jared suggested and the group agreed that in Section 250 a trial exemption would be added which would permit seed lots of one pound or less to be planted without testing under specific restrictions and inspections.

The group discussed the possibility of exempting a cover crop mix with less than ten percent regulated articles from field testing. The suggestion of having zones for cover crops also was mentioned. Since the cover crops are often planted in the off season and grown only until it frosts, no field inspectors are available.

Jared suggested that Brad and John could do a trial planting of cover crop under Section 300. Special Situations. They would have to appeal to the Director of ISDA. Marlon thought that the planting could be done at the USDA Aberdeen site. Then ISDA could run field tests to see the effects of the untested cover crop seed. Depending on the outcome of the trial planting, cover crops could be added to the rulemaking for next year.

Pat suggested that the discussion of cover crops should be at the December meeting of IEOSA and the Idaho growers meeting in November. Jared agreed to help with educating the industry about the pure seed rules and to contact Roger Batt. John and Brad do not want to be perceived as tattle tales, but they assured the group that cover crop planting is not going away.

Jared adjourned the meeting at 11:55 am.

The group agreed that another meeting to discuss issues related to cover crops was not necessary as it relates to 2015 rulemaking , instead a proposed rule text would be drafted and distributed to the participants.

Respectfully submitted by Janis Perry.