



Organic Seed Committee

3:00 – 4:00 PM	December 8, 2014	Michigan Room
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MINUTES

I. Welcome/Introductions and Anti-Trust Statement

Committee Chair Charlie Brown welcomed committee members to the meeting in Chicago. He pointed out ASTA's Anti-Trust Statement which is on the printed agendas and in the conference 'passport'.

II. Approve Agenda

Committee Chair Charlie Brown asked for and received approve from the committee the agenda for this meeting.

III. USDA-National Organic Program

Michelle Klieger, ASTA's Organic Committee staff liaison, reported Charlie Brown, Tom Gordon, Andy LaVigne, and Bernice Slutsky met with Miles McEvoy during the first week of November. During this meeting they discussed the new untreated seed protocol in Mexico, the availability of organic seed, and the efforts of ASTA's organic committee. Mr. McEvoy had a trip planned to Mexico in early December and ASTA provided information on the protocol for him.

There was also discussion about with artificial methionine is approved in organic poultry feed.

IV. Madison Project Update

Andy LaVigne gave an update on the ASTA's Madison Project. There are four different pieces to this project that the organic committee discussed. There was very good discussion on this topic.

- Conducting a survey to determine the availability of non-GE and organic corn germplasm
- Working with the AOSCA to add a member's only section to the Organic Seed Finder, where companies could list non-GE corn for sale, much like the rest of the organic seed find
- Establishing a guidance for GE detect for non-GE and organic corn seed. The discussion focused on what a recommendation would say and whether or not a detect number should be included. Many committee members expressed the need for seed purchases to work with their seed supplier individually, because companies have their own standards in place.
- Talking more with North American Millers Association (NAMA). NAMA recently approached ASTA with questions about non-GE and organic seed. After the CSS organic committee meeting ASTA plans to get in touch with NAMA again and update them on the Madison Project efforts.

V. National Germplasm Resource Advisory Committee Update Activities

The Advisory Committee continues to look at the AC21 recommendations. A focus is on the availability of organic seeds and if there is no availability what can the Committee do to change that. Stephen Smith

form DuPont Pioneer presented on this topic. A complete copy of his presentation can be found on ASTA's member's only website.

VI. Germplasm Enhancement of Maize Program Update

Candice Gardner updated the committee on the GEM program. There are 282 lines in the program. They work with a network of cooperators that request genetic material. These cooperators provide in-kind support and data to the GEM program in exchange for the seeds. They have gotten more requests from organic programs looking for material. Many of them are not able to provide the in-kind support and are encouraged to reach out to the National Plant Germplasm System. Material from the GEM project is NPGS.

VII. Adjourn

The Committee meeting was adjourned by Chair Charlie Brown at 4:00PM.