

Research Committee Meeting

December 6, 2021

The committee met at 8:30 a.m. on December 6th, 2021 at WSC Conference Room. Those in attendance were as follows, Steve Snyder, Chris Scheuerman, Matt Miller, Richard Russell, Brett Weber, WSC Agriculturalist Kadan Huber, WSC CEO Mike Greear, and Vance Lungren Jr.

Lungren began the meeting with a review of the OVT trialing for 2021, discussing planting issues corrected by grower oversight, later than desired thinning of plots, and concerns about data quality from seed companies that were addressed, among other issues. Discussion was had about 2022 trialing and the idea of conducting the OVT's "in house" was brought up. After further discussion, the group felt that long term it would be very beneficial to join and participate in the Western Sugar OVT's but do to staffing issues with both companies that would not be available until sometime further into the future. For now, the committee will continue on allowing the UW PREC team conduct the trials for the 2022 year.

The group identified some changes and concerns that need to be addressed prior to the 2022 plot planting and are as follows:

1. Change from planting thick and thinning to "planting to stand"
 - a. Huber will talk with the seed companies and other sugar companies to get an idea of how far apart we should plant
 - b. It will be necessary to let the seed companies know we are switching so they understand that seed germ quality is of utmost importance
 - c. Huber will talk to UW to make sure their planter is capable of space planting 4-6" apart
 - d. Huber will check to see if UW has fitted their planter with "knock-outs" to prevent planter plate plugging
2. Grower Participation Agreement items
 - a. As part of the seed tours going forward, Huber will work with the grower participants of the OVT's to gather information about the fields including but not limited to:
 - i. Prior two years crops
 - ii. Nutrient apps
 - iii. Field Prep
 - iv. Planting and Irrigation dates
 - v. Quadris App Date and Stage of beets
 - b. Additionally we will strongly encourage GP's to plant rest of field to only one variety for better trial comparisons

Varietal performance was evaluated and plot comparisons were made. The three 2021 plots appeared to be closely correlated and Huber is waiting to hear back from Rebecca Larsen

on her opinion of the plot statistics. He will report to the group her findings and assessment. Huber also reported that he sent the raw data to Beta Seed, per their request, and has not heard their opinion to date. In the future we hope to make our own statistical analysis of the plots with help from Western Sugar and therefrom distribute the findings to all seed companies.

Discussion was had on the need for a late winter “Kitchen Meeting”. Round Up resistance issues and CLS will be priority but a nutrient management lesson from someone would be very valuable as we are going into higher fertilizer prices. Paul Stuckenholtz was suggested. Huber will make contacts and navigate various other upcoming meetings to set a date and line up speakers.

Having no other general business, varietal approval began with Snyder excusing himself due to his conflict of interest being a Seedex/SES sales rep. The remaining committee then approved the varieties as presented on the “2022 Crib Sheet”. After much discussion, the committee determined that none of the Hillehog varieties requested would be allowed for production at any level for the 2022 crop year. Historically poor yields and the inability to achieve and maintain WSC’s production requirements brought about the decision. Huber and Lungren will update the expected yield/disease performance ratings on the crib sheet and send out for committee approval. Huber will notify the various seed companies and also Agterra of the varieties and their status for the 2022 crop year.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vance Lungren