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Iowa State University Extension Iowa Grain Quality Initiative

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Iowa State University Extension Iowa Grain Quality Initiative

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The worldwide emphasis on quality management is beginning to affect grain marketing in that users are identifying specific attributes that have additional economic importance. The Iowa Grain Quality Initiative (IGQI), a consortium of producer, industry, government and university experts, was formed to assist in the development of user-driven marketing strategies.

Value-added grains, grains that exceed normal commodity grain in user performance or function, will present a wide range of challenges for producers and handlers, but represent potential value increases of 10-30 cents per bushel, more in very specialized applications.

Mission Statement and Objectives

The mission of the IGQI is to increase economic returns to Iowa agriculture by improving the efficiency of traditional commodity grain markets and assisting emerging markets for user-specific grains.

The IGQI has three specific objectives toward this mission:

1. Facilitate the development of technologies that will improve both the marketing efficiency and value of Iowa's primary grains.
2. Educate and assist specific target audiences in capturing opportunities presented by value-added grains.
3. Be positioned for rapid response to short-term quality issues caused by weather conditions or other external forces.

The IGQI is divided into three subcommittees that focus on major value-added grain topics. The 1996-97 accomplishments for each subcommittee and its members are shown below.

Contracting Issues Subcommittee

Goal: Develop marketing procedures that aid in the capture and equitable distribution of gains from contract grain production.

Accomplishments

- Collaborated with the Iowa Attorney General to prepare grain and livestock producer checklists for legal issues on contracting production (over 2,000 distributed).
- Completion of a chapter on risk management in specialty grains for publication in "Managing Change - Managing Risk: A Primer."
- Initiated a spreadsheet for analyzing costs and returns for specialty corn and soybean versus commodity grain.

Subcommittee Members

Roger Ginder, ISU, Economics (co-chair)
Larry Kallem, Iowa Institute of Cooperatives (co-chair)
John Gnadke, Cooperative Production Network
Chad Hagen, Iowa Select Farms
Neil Hamilton, Drake University Law School
Mary Holz-Clause, ISU Extension
Stanley Johnson, ISU Extension
Bob Kennedy, Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l., Inc.
Chad Kleppe, Iowa Soybean Promotion Board
Dennis Marple, ISU, Animal Science
Stewart Melvin, ISU, Ag. & Biosys. Engineering
Stephen Moline, Asst. Iowa Attorney General
Ron Swanson, Producer
David Topel, ISU, College of Agriculture
Richard Wrage, ISU Extension

New Traits Issues Subcommittee

Goal: Identify and foster development of value-added traits in grains adapted to Iowa conditions.

Accomplishments

- Hosted a workshop on identifying genetic modifications of starch in which industry leaders and faculty were invited.
- Completed an in-house compilation of starch variants and identified associated changes in functionality. Economic assessment of the variants is currently underway.
- Compiled a list of corn genetic modifications for oil and protein useful in feed and industrial applications. Economic assessment of the variants will take place during 1997.

Subcommittee Members

Larry Johnson, ISU, Food Science & Human Nutrition (co-chair)
Rodney Williamson, Iowa Corn Promotion Board (co-chair)
Phillip Baumel, ISU, Economics
Diane Birt, ISU, Food Science & Human Nutrition
Ron Cantrell, ISU, Agronomy
George Cummins, ISU Extension
Dave Cyrus, Cargill, Inc.
Walt Fehr, ISU, Molecular Biology
Daniel Hammes, DuPont Optimum Quality Grains
Paul Havick, Iowa Soybean Promotion Board
Bill Linstrom, ISU Extension
Wendy Wintersteen, ISU Extension

Testing Issues Subcommittee

Goal: Complete the initial creation of an expandable, universally accepted system of standardized test protocols for value-added grain production in Iowa and the United States.

Accomplishments

- Continued expanding the Iowa Near Infrared Network, adding new near infrared (NIR) instruments to thirteen elevator facilities across Iowa to evaluate the intrinsic properties of grain.
- The ISU Grain Quality Lab standardized 112 near infrared analyzers as a service to manufacturers and the Iowa NIR Network. The instruments are located throughout the U.S.
- Grain quality analysis of samples from twelve county corn plots and seven county soybean plots. Data was collated and distributed.
- Continued development of near-infrared instrument calibrations for measuring the intrinsic characteristics of grain.

Subcommittee Members

Charles Hurburgh, Ag. & Biosys. Engineering (co-chair)

Kirk Leeds, Iowa Soybean Promotion Board (co-chair)

Randy Allman, Agribusiness Assn. of Iowa

Jack Dillon, ISU Extension

Craig Floss, Iowa Corn Promotion Board

Denis McGee, ISU, Seed Science Center

Manjit Misra, ISU, Seed Science Center

Gary Munkvold, ISU, Plant Pathology

Robert Neal, Cargill, Inc.

Kevin Vinchattle, Iowa Poultry Assn.

The IGQI's activities were started in 1995 with special appropriations from the Iowa Legislature, Iowa Corn Promotion Board and the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board. These entities continued their financial support for the project in 1996 and 1997.

For more information please contact:

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