

2025 SCC33 National Variety Testing Meeting Minutes

February 2-4, 2025 @ Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront - Melbourne, Florida.

Attendees:

Name	Company/University	Attendance
Jim Rouse	AcreShield	In Person
Gary Nijak	aerialPLOT	In Person
Todd Vincent	Almaco	In Person
Joseph Burch	Auburn University	In Person
Steve Hague	Auburn University	In Person
Henry Jordan	Auburn University	In Person
Jeff McCall	Clemson University	In Person
Kyle Stephens	Clemson University	In Person
Ed Asfeld	Colorado State University	Virtual
Sally Jones-Diamond	Colorado State University	In Person
Jason Webb	Colorado State University	In Person
Russell Nuti	Corteva	In Person
Robert Foley	Eagle Genetics	In Person
Ed Dahle	First Trials (MN)	In Person
Jame Thompson	Haldrup	In Person
Keely Avery	Iowa State University	In Person
Shawn Bryant	Iowa State University	In Person
Ryan Budnik	Iowa State University	In Person
Nathan Burks	Iowa State University	In Person
Logan Shonka	Iowa State University	In Person
Doug Warters	Juniper Systems	In Person
Bradley Halladay	Medius.RE	In Person
Christian Kapp	Michigan State University	Virtual
Randy Laurenz	Michigan State University	In Person
Paige Pickett	Michigan State University	In Person
Blake Shepard	Mixon Seed	In Person
Jeremy Davis	North Carolina State Extension	In Person
Taylor Brinkley	North Carolina State University	In Person
Eliza Hardy	North Carolina State University	In Person
Ryan Heiniger	North Carolina State University	In Person
Chad Deplazes	North Dakota State University	In Person
Darin Eisinger	North Dakota State University	In Person
Clair Keene	North Dakota State University	In Person
Steven Sick	Republic Seed Company	In Person
Jonathan Rupert	Smith Seed Services	In Person
Brandon Gerrish	Texas A&M University	In Person
Richard Bond	University of Arkansas	In Person
Jennifer Bearden	University of Florida	Registered
Sudeep Sidhu	University of Florida	In Person
Julia Piaskowski	University of Idaho	Virtual
Clay Harper	University of Illinois	Registered

Cam Kenimer	University of Kentucky	In Person
Dalton Mertz	University of Kentucky	In Person
Andre Froes de Borja Reis	University of Missouri	In Person
Mark Wieberg	University of Missouri	In Person
Ryan H Blair	University of Tennessee	Registered
Andrew Lawson	University of Tennessee	In Person
David McIntosh	University of Tennessee	In Person
Isaac Mirahki	University of Tennessee	In Person
Virginia Sykes	University of Tennessee	In Person
Adam Roth	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Virtual
Brandon Jorgensen	Wintersteiger	In Person
Brian Ward	Zurn Harvesting	In Person

2025 SCC33 Business Meeting

02.04.2025

Ryan Budnik

A. SCC33 Project Renewal –

- a. Dr. Bruening gave a recorded video presentation on the renewal process for the SCC33 NIMSS project. This NIMSS project managed through the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors allows for SCC33 members to apply for travel funding for the annual meeting, as well as establishes organizational structure for the group. The current project ends 09/30/2025. Dr. Bruening has begun the process of working with the new program administrative advisor, Loren Fisher of North Carolina State University, to renew the project for the 2025-2030 period. All members are requested to respond to the multi-state project renewal email inquiry later this year to maintain their membership in the group.

B. Officer Transitions –

- a. The group agreed to nominate successors to learn from the current officers to help with the eventual transition.
 - i. Current Treasurer: Richard Bond (University of Arkansas)
 - ii. Proposed Treasurer Successor: Ryan Budnik (Iowa State University)
 - iii. Current Secretary: Dr. Bill Bruening (University of Kentucky)
 - iv. Proposed Secretary Successor: To be determined at the next SCC33 meeting.

C. Banking and Taxes –

- b. Budnik shared his findings after attempting to establish a new SCC33 bank account for SCC33 in Iowa in 2024. Historically the account has been held in Arkansas and does not currently have any active members as authorized signatories. The goal of the new checking account was to get a debit card to streamline event venue payments and support new

authorized signatures. Many items were discovered during this investigation, as follows:

- i. To open a new business account you need a valid tax ID number and, in our case, a certificate of good standing.
- ii. The federal tax ID number (EIN) on the Arkansas/SCC33 bank account is not valid.
- iii. The Arkansas bank would not allow new signatories to be added and would not allow a new account to be opened without the certificate of good standing.
- iv. No evidence of taxes being paid by SCC33 organization.
- c. Budnik consulted his Association's attorney to clarify what would need to be done to satisfy these banking requirements. Budnik was provided a \$2,000 attorney fee estimate to acquire both required documents below:
 - i. File for new EIN
 - ii. File for non-profit tax exempt status [501(c)3]
- d. The SCC33 group agreed that acquiring these documents and establishing a new bank account in Iowa would be a logical next step for the group to become more financially responsible.
 - i. A survey will be sent to all members to validate these initial findings, determine a name for the new non-profit organization as it does not have to be SCC33, and agree upon attorney fees.
 - ii. Upon completion of the survey Bond and Budnik will work on establishing the new bank account.
- e. A major concern that will need to be discussed with an attorney or tax expert would be the probability of owing back taxes.

D. Update directory –

- f. Budnik requested that all members of the group inform the officers of any changes with their personnel in effort to help maintain an accurate and up-to-date directory.

E. 2025 Service Award –

- g. Budnik presented the 2025 SCC33 Service Award to Ryan Heiniger of University of North Carolina. Heiniger filled a vital role as co-chair for SCC33 during the uncertainty of Covid, and his leadership was instrumental in keeping the group together and relevant during those challenging times.

F. Nomination of 2025-26 Co-Chairs –

- h. Ryan Heiniger (University of North Carolina) and Brad Halladay (Medius Ag)

G. Nomination of 2026-27 Co-Chairs –

- i. Virginia Sykes (University of Tennessee) and Doug Warters (Juniper Systems/HarvestMaster)

2025 | SCC33 | Cooperative Variety Testing Programs Melbourne, FL

Sunday February 2nd

SCC33 Welcome Reception

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Sponsored by: **ZURN & ALMACO**

Hotel Patio – Hors d'oeuvres will be brought out at **6 PM**; Open bar provided until **8 PM**.

Monday February 3rd

Opening Remarks	8:30 AM	–	8:40 AM
Program Introductions	8:40 AM	–	9:00 AM
David McIntosh [UT - Cover Crop VT]	9:00 AM	–	9:30 AM
Sudeep Sidhu [UF - Corn & Cotton VT]	9:30 AM	–	10:00 AM
Steve Sick [Republic Seed – Managing “Same As” Products]	10:00 AM	–	10:30 AM
Break	10:30 AM	–	10:45 AM
Robert Foley [Eagle Genetics – Breeding Program Plot Testing]	10:45 AM	–	11:30 AM
Jason Webb [CSU – Importance of Public/Private Partnerships]	11:30 AM	–	12:00 PM
Lunch	12:00 PM	–	12:45 PM
<i>(Taco Buffet: Chicken, Beef, & Grilled Veggies w/Sides)</i>			
Panel Discussion [Hosted by Henry Jordan – Auburn]	12:45 PM	–	1:45 PM
Sally Jones-Diamond [CSU – Statistics & Additional Testing]	1:45 PM	–	2:15 PM
Break	2:15 PM	–	2:30 PM
Isaac Mirahki [UT - Mid-South Soybean VT Database & Analysis]	2:30 PM	–	3:00 PM
Eliza Hardy & Taylor Brinkley [NCSU – NC OVT]	3:00 PM	–	3:30 PM
Closing Remarks	3:30 PM	–	3:40 PM
Hat Exchange*	6:00 PM	–	7:00 PM

**Bring 3 of your OVT or company logo ball caps to exchange with your colleagues with a fun & casual networking reception on Monday night around the hotel Longboards Oceanfront Grille Bar.*

Tuesday February 4th

Opening Remarks	8:30 AM	–	8:35 AM
Jeremy Davis [NCSU – Spray Drone Research]	8:35 AM	–	9:05 AM
Julia Piaskowski [UID – Coefficient of Variability]	9:05 AM	–	9:30 AM
Vendor – 10-Minute Talks			
Juniper Systems	9:30 AM	–	9:40 AM
ALMACO	9:42 AM	–	9:52 AM
Medius.Re	9:54 AM	–	10:04 AM
aerialPLOT	10:06 AM	–	10:16 AM
Wintersteiger	10:18 AM	–	10:28 AM
Break	10:30 AM	–	10:45 AM
Bill Bruening [UKY – NIMSS & NIFA Grant]	10:45 AM	–	11:15 AM
Business Meeting & Award	11:15 AM		11:45 AM
Closing Remarks	11:45 AM	–	11:50 AM