

2007
NCCC167 Corn Breeding Committee
Annual Meeting - Minutes

Pheasant Run Resort - www.pheasantrun.com

4051 E Main St
St Charles, IL 60174
(630) 584-6300

Date: March 21, 2006
Time: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Present: R. Bernardo (U. of Minnesota), M. Bohn (U. of Illinois), J. Coors (U. of Wisconsin), S. Flint-Garcia (USDA-ARS, U. of Missouri), N. de Leon (U. of Wisconsin), R. Pratt (U. of Ohio), K. Russell (U. of Nebraska), P. Scott (USDA-ARS, Iowa State), B. Tracy (U. of Wisconsin)

L. Lee (Guelph, Canada) and J. Edwards (USDA-ARS, Iowa State) attended the Maize Genetics Community retreat at Allerton, Illinois, as representatives of the NCCC 167 group and the public maize breeding community in large.

1. Dr. Bill Tracy (U. of Wisconsin) is the new academic adviser of the NCCC 167 group. He highlighted that the purpose of the NCCC 167 group is to enhance communication among the participating universities in the area of corn breeding. The success of this communication is measured by the attendance of group members at the annual business meeting, the timely submission of minutes and station reports (Deadline – two months after business meeting), and the sum of all publications published by all participating groups.
2. In order to increase the visibility of our annual meeting and to demonstrate the breadth of activities performed in our groups we decided that
 - It is mandatory for each presenter to provide an abstract of the presentation,
 - All abstracts will be made public through the NCCC 167 homepage.
3. Introduction of new members:
 - Natalia de Leon is the new UW representative to the NCCC 167 group. She holds the position of an Assistant Professor in Corn Breeding and Genetics. Her interests are in the area of improving corn's lignocellulosic quality of bioenergy production and the investigating corn plant development.

4. Reports

- Treasure Report – The report was prepared by Marcelo Carena and presented by Martin Bohn.
- Germplasm Release – A detailed summary of released maize materials was presented and will be made publicly available through the NCCC-167 internet site.
- Germplasm Testing - All test results will be made available through the NCCC-167 homepage).
 - Maturity Group <300
 - Experiments were conducted at U. of North Dakota (Marcelo Carena), U. of Guelph (Liz Lee), The U. of Ohio (R. Pratt), and Cornell. Dr. Carena will produce testcross seed if requested for this maturity group.
 - Maturity Group 400-600
 - No experiments were conducted for this maturity group.
 - Maturity Group 700-800
 - Experiments were performed by the U. of Illinois (M. Bohn)
 - The group discussed the future usefulness of the germplasm testing as a group activity. One important issue is the reduced number of inbreds developed in the 400-600 and 700-800 maturity groups. In addition, the issue was raised that the data obtained in these trials doesn't yield publications or provide the necessary preliminary data suitable for grant proposals. The group agreed that the chair will contact each collaborator to further investigate this topic. The group also agreed to discuss the possibility of alternative collaborative projects (see topic 9).

5. Elections

- Chair: Martin Bohn
- Vice-Chair: Paul Scott
- Treasurer and secretary was elected in 2006 for a five year term (until 2011): Marcelo Carena
- Chair – Germplasm Release: Ken Russell
- Chair – Maturity Group < 300: Marcelo Carena
- No chairs were elected for Maturity Groups 400-600 and 700-800. These offices will remain vacant until a group reaches a decision about their continuation (see topics 4 and 9).

6. Organization, location, and dates for the 2008 meeting.

- In 2008 we will attend the interregional meeting that will be organized by the NEC029 in Baltimore. The meeting will be scheduled “back to back” with the 50th Maize Genetics Conference

in Washington, DC. The Maize Genetics Conference will use this anniversary to announce the completion of the maize genome sequence and to lobby for an increased funding of maize genetic research. We decided to collaborate with the maize genetics community to use the momentum of this event to also demonstrate the importance of public maize breeding in translating basic research into products that reach the farmer. The chair and vice-chair will contact the Maize Genetics Conference organizing committee (chair: Tom Brutnell) and representatives of the maize genetic community (Sarah Hake) to evaluate possibilities for our engagement.

7. Website maintenance and incorporation of all state reports and regional trials.
 - The NCCC-167 email list will be updated. S. Flint-Garcia will take on this task.
8. Interaction with industry and plant breeding groups (e.g. SCC80).
 - The NCCC-167 will contact the ASTA Research Committee chair to identify companies that are willing to support students attending and presenting at the annual meeting. We have not yet identified someone to lead this effort.
9. Common research
 - The NCCC-167 group recognizes the importance of a collaborative research project. The role of this project will be to further enhance communication within the group and to related groups and organizations, i.e., the maize genetics community and other NCR or NCCC groups. The project will also provide the opportunity to publish as a group and to submit collaborative research proposals to federal granting agencies. Beyond the idea of a group-specific project, Bill Tracey suggested to identify an important research question that needs the combined expertise of multiple NCR/NCCC groups to find solutions.

At the end of our annual meeting Liz Lee and Jode Edwards informed the group about the outcomes of the Maize Genetics Community retreat at Allerton, Illinois.

Prepared by M. Bohn