



International Herbage Seed Group

Newsletter

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IHSG

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7th IHSG Conference

The 7th IHSG conference was held in Dallas in April this year. It was attended by 75 delegates from 20 countries and incorporated oral presentations, posters and a visit to the Noble Foundation in Oklahoma. A post-conference tour of visits to turfgrass research, forage breeding programs, bioenergy crops, a wild flower seed farm and San Antonio followed the scientific programme.

After the general meeting it was decided to hold the next meeting as a workshop in New Zealand directly following the International Grassland Congress in Australia 2013.

This is issue number 43 of the newsletter. Details of the contact person in your area are listed on the back page of the newsletter and on the IHSG website <http://www.ihsg.org/>. Please continue to send articles, updates or short papers to your area contact person to be included in future newsletters.

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President's Column

Welcome to the 43rd edition of the IHSG newsletter. From the front cover you may already have noticed a change to our organisation: Jason Trethewey has become the newsletter editor.

Athole Marshall informed me in spring, that he wanted to resign as the IHSG newsletter editor. On behalf of our group I want to thank Athole for all the work he has put into the newsletter since he became the editor in 1998. "Thank you very much, Athole".

It is a struggle to obtain reports for the newsletter! – but I'm very happy to announce, that Jason is willing to meet the challenge. I look forward to collaborating with Jason, and I would also like to invite you, IHSG-members, to collaborate in providing input for our newsletter.

In April 2010 delegates from the International Herbage Seed Group gathered in Dallas, Texas for the 7th International Herbage Seed Conference. I want to thank the local organisers Lloyd Nelson, Gerald Smith and Gerald Evers for preparing such a successful conference! All together 75 delegates attended representing 20 countries, and I want to thank all of you who participated in making our meeting a success. Thanks also to those of you, who presented your work either in oral and/or in poster presentations. We had many interesting presentations, and I think, we could have spent more time for presentations and discussions. We should keep this in mind when planning the next conference. You can find poster-abstracts and the presented papers in the conference proceedings at <http://www.ihsg.org/content/proceedings-2010>.

The conference took place at Embassy Suites Hotel, and the majority of us were accommodated there, which provided the opportunity to catch-up on other issues other than *just* herbage seed and to meet accompanying family members. I always find

these meetings very, very stimulating and enjoyable. It's nice to see 'good old friends' and exciting to make new friends. This certainly is an extra benefit to our professional life in herbage seed research.

Coming home was difficult for some, as you will read inside the newsletter. Volcanic ashes gave several of the European delegates' additional days of stay in the US – a quite exceptional experience. The Danes came home to an unusually dry early summer followed by an extremely wet autumn. It certainly seems that 'Herbage seed production under adverse climatic effects' will be a challenge in our research work and a potential theme for a future meeting.

During the conference the IHSG business meeting was held, and you will find minutes from the meeting inside this newsletter. One important issue to point out is that it was decided that our next meeting will be held in New Zealand as a satellite meeting in association with the International Grassland Conference (IGC), which will take place 15th to 19th September 2013 in Sydney, Australia. Phil Rolston is heading the local organizing committee, and the meeting is planned for Christchurch. Furthermore, the IGC will include a session on Herbage Seed Production. We will make sure to inform IHSG delegates when the call for papers is announced. Further to this I'm happy to inform you that Lanzhou University, China, has expressed an interest to host the next IHSG-conference in 2015. I have asked Lanzhou University to provide further information such as a suggestion of venue, date, post conference tour and budget for us to make the final decision during our workshop in New Zealand. Other host-candidates for the 2015 conference are invited to contact me.

Please, keep in mind to send information on meetings, new publications etc. either to me or Jason and we will make sure to place your information either on the web-page or in the newsletter.

President
Birte Boelt

Minutes from the IHSG business meeting 13 April 2010

Venue: Embassy Suites Hotel in Dallas, Texas

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Election of moderator
3. Presidents report
4. Treasurers report
5. Election of officers
6. The website / newsletter
7. The future of Forage Seed Production, Volume 1 and 2
8. Venue for the next IHSG meeting

1. The IHSG business meeting was opened by President Birte Boelt and the suggested agenda was approved.

2. Phil Rolston was elected as moderator

3. Birte Boelt reported as president. The IHSG homepage has been updated and now contains many facilities as for example 'publications' and 'announcements'. She encouraged everyone to provide information of upcoming and ongoing activities through the webpage. Since our last meeting in Norway 2007, regional contact persons have been appointed, and Birte encouraged all to send material to the regional members to be published at the homepage and in newsletters. Athole Marshall wants to resign as the newsletter editor. It has been increasingly difficult to obtain information for the newsletter, and Birte expressed deep gratitude for all the work Athole has done to the group.

At the previous business meeting in Norway Thailand was suggested as the venue for the IHSG workshop. However, since our contact there, Michael Hare, was no longer employed by a university it was difficult to obtain local support for the organization of the workshop. Therefore our next meeting was decided for Texas – a conference as suggested by Lloyd Nelson. Birte wants to

thank the local organizing committee at Texas A & M for hosting the conference and taking good care of us.

4. Barthold K. Feidenhans' presented the accounts, where there had been no changes since 2007.

5. There was no nomination for new officers so the already elected officers will continue until the next conference.

6. Jason Trethewey was elected as newsletter editor. It was decided to aim for 2 newsletters per year. Birte Boelt again encouraged people to use the website and newsletters to publish results, abstracts etc.

7. Forage Seed Production vol. 2 has been out of print for a long time, and it was decided to look for way to have it reprinted. Don Loch, the editor, will contact CABI, and if they reject to reprint vol. 2 we will try another publisher. Don Loch felt it will be very difficult to find resources for an updated version and suggested instead a reprint.

Forage Seed Production vol. 1 is still in sale, but we should start planning an update.

8. The next International Grassland Conference will be held in Sydney, Australia in September 2013 and IHSG have received an invitation from John Hampton to host a workshop in New Zealand in conjunction to the IGC. The invitation was accepted, and IHSG will make contact to the organisers of IGC to ask for a seed production session during the IGC-conference. Further Lanzhou University, China was presented as a candidate for the next IHSC in 2015 and Bill Young expressed an interest for a future IHSC to be held in South America.

It was decided that candidates for the next IHSC will be asked for further information as for example venue, local support, suggestion for budget etc. This information should be available before the next workshop in New Zealand 2013. Phil Rolston closed the business meeting.

René Gislum

7th International Herbage Seed Conference photo gallery



Welcome to USA



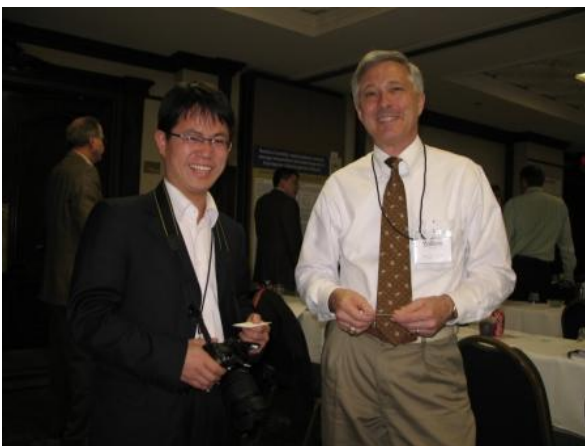
The local organizer Lloyd Nelson



Mexican lunch



Conference dinner



Small-talk during the break



Field tour at The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation



Turf-specialist Texas A&M



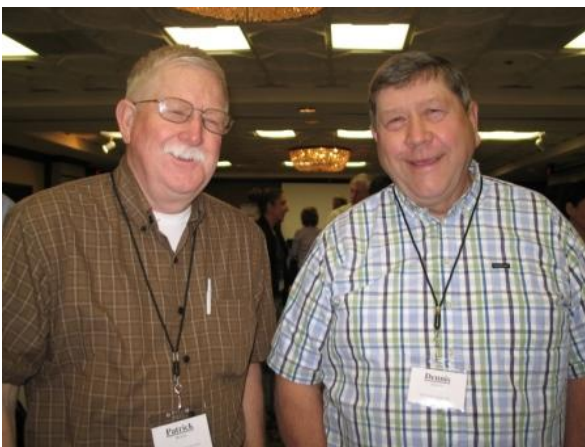
Radek Macháč Czech Republic



The audience



Supporting Texas Rangers



Oregon Seed growers



Thank you everybody

Home through the ashes – travelling home from the conference was, for some, more of an adventure than expected

FROM THE WELLING FAMILY – Bill, Carol, Grace and Jack

Having said our goodbyes on the Saturday morning, missing out on the last day of the tour, we left San Antonio in the afternoon and returned to New York via Chicago.

Sunday was spent in New York and we were due to fly out of New York Newark at 9am on the Monday morning, 19th April and arrive Monday evening in the UK. Our flight was still on schedule when we went to bed with rumours that London Heathrow was to open up at 7pm Monday and we were due to land at 9pm.

When we got up at 5am to leave for the airport the flight was already cancelled. We arrived at Newark at 6am to join the queue of 30 for re-booking, only to be told that the first available flights were to Paris on 26th April or London on 28th April. Whilst deliberating what to do the guy said, ‘Oh, there is a flight just come up for Oslo this evening, do you want to go there?’ to which we replied yes. We couldn’t book our bags in until 3pm so we sat in the baggage reclaim area, the only place with seats, from 8am – 3pm.

When we went to book our bags in they told us the flight was cancelled so we rejoined the re-booking queue which had been a hundred deep all day and we found we would not get away until May. As we sat there feeling very depressed and starting to search for a hotel for the night a guy came along and shouted ‘Who’s for Oslo – the flight’s back on!’

After two more scares that we were not going to get on the flight we eventually left at 8.30pm and landed in Oslo the next morning having flown north of the volcano.

Oslo airport was deserted and we went up to an information desk and explained we were trying to get to England. The attendant laughed and looking back I think I should have hit him. We were keen to try the ferry from Kristensand but he said we were wasting our time and we were best to drive to Denmark. Hire cars were cheap he said, as they were trying to get cars back to Denmark.

The lady at Europcar told me she could give me a cheap deal and then behind my back added in all the surcharges that she had said she would waiver. We had had no sleep for 36 hours and were not at our sharpest so she conned me out of £400.00 for one day’s car hire (I discovered when I got home). The place was cleared out of maps and so we set out with our hire car and the instructions ‘find the E6, head for Gothenburg and then on to Malmo.

750 kilometres later having driven for 8 hours through rain and snow we arrived at Malmo where we stayed the night in Sweden. The next morning we crossed the bridge and returned the car to Kastrup (Copenhagen) airport by 10.30am to avoid another days hire charge.

Kastrup airport was empty but we had heard that Heathrow had opened up the night before so asked if any flights were available. To our amazement they said yes we could get on a flight to London Stansted at 8pm that evening but that we had to book online. By the time we got onto a computer or to be more precise Jack and Grace got on the computer at the internet café the flight was fully booked out. Searching on the computer we found a flight for the next day that would cost £1,200 for the four of us. In the meantime Carol had gone back to the information desk to discover a business flight was available into London City at 4pm that afternoon. I contacted them and the price was £1,700 so we decided to book the £1,200 flight only to find the price had risen in 5 minutes to £2,400! By this time we realised we had to move fast so ran back to the business flight to secure the four tickets but by now at a cost of £1,850.

At 4.30pm we left Kastrup arriving at London City at 7pm on Wednesday, 22nd April, two days late and £2,500 lighter.

Despite that we had a great time in the USA and our thanks go to Lloyd and Nancy Nelson for all their hard work in arranging everything and encouraging us to bring the family. The children never once got upset about the detour. They thought it was a great adventure and the icing on the cake of an exciting trip!

Harvest loss in ryegrass

Richard Chynoweth¹, Julie Sime¹ and Phil Rolston²

¹Foundation for Arable Research, Lincoln, New Zealand

²AgResearch, Lincoln, New Zealand

Preliminary field measurements in grower's fields have provided us with some startling numbers. In 10 fields, losses were assessed with small collection trays placed in the crop before cutting (at ca 45% seed moisture) and retrieved after harvest. Losses averaged 31% of the seed available for harvest, representing 700 kg/ha. The growers yields averaged 1650 kg/ha. The collected seed was dressed to represent saleable seed. There were no fields in this group that had very low losses; the least loss was 22%. The only low loss we previously recorded was 6% in a crop that had a yield of 3200 kg/ha. This crop was cut on a damp morning.

The research has identified several challenges in developing procedures to measure harvest loss. There is little published on the subject and methodologies to identify what part of the harvesting process is contributing to the loss is not easy.

We have many more questions than answers. Where does the loss occur? At cutting, while drying in the windrow or swath; during combine harvester pick-up; or in the offal trail because of poor separation during threshing? How important is the type of equipment/machinery being used. How important is the operator or time of day/night of cutting or the weather conditions at cutting.

In New Zealand many crops are cut with disc mowers. We have some data showing windrowed crops have lower losses; but even with windrows the losses were unacceptably high.

Contact the authors if you have thoughts on how to reduce harvest loss or methodologies to measure loss.

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Earthquake hits Canterbury

Christchurch and Canterbury suffered a devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.1 on Saturday September 5 at 4:35am. This has been followed by hundreds of aftershocks, many of them significant. 100,000 homes have been damaged. Much of central city Christchurch was closed with widespread disruption to water, power and sewerage services.

Farmers also suffered widespread damage with over 50 silos falling, fences and irrigation systems damaged and land disturbance. Thankfully no lives were lost as a result of the earthquake.



Phil Rolston's office after the earthquake



Tall fescue seed field on the new fault line 20 km west of Lincoln



Seed store shattered by the earthquake



Research laboratories following earthquake



Even the sheep at reception succumbed to the earthquake



Seed Research Centre

The Lincoln University Seed Research Centre is up and running. It has been established within the Bio-Protection Research Centre and provides a mechanism for bringing together New Zealand's leading seed researchers and industry partners.

Newly appointed Director, Prof John Hampton, says the Centre has a clear vision of ensuring excellence and relevance in seed science and technology research, product development and postgraduate studies for land-based industries and nature conservation.

The Centre's Deputy Director is leading seed scientist Dr Phil Rolston (AgResearch) and Dr Garth Carnaby (Lincoln University Entrepreneur in Residence) will chair a soon to be appointed Centre Advisory Board which will include members from four of New Zealand's leading seed companies.

The Seed Research Centre's establishment within the Bio-Protection Research Centre at Lincoln University is logical as Lincoln is a specialist land based University situated in the middle of Canterbury, the country's major seed production region."

The Seed Centre will

- Provide a seed science and technology research focus.
- Ensure excellence and relevance in research and postgraduate students.
- Actively seek external research funding and resources and therefore maximise research and other outputs.
- Further develop existing and new research partners from the seed industry.
- Develop and commercialise new seed products and services.

The establishment of the Centre has been financially supported through the joint Lincoln University - University of Canterbury – University of Otago Encouraging & Supporting Innovation project. Our goal is to develop at least \$2 million/annum of externally funded activity which in turn will create a continuous flow of intellectual property. For this reason, the involvement of long term private sector partners will be very important."

For more about the research being carried out at the Lincoln University Seed Research Centre, see their website: www.seedcentre.org.nz

For more information:

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From the editor

Kia ora tatou (hello everyone) from New Zealand. We are slowly drying out after a particularly wet winter but the lambs are pronging and we are looking forward to a productive spring and summer. The recent 7.1 magnitude earthquake in Christchurch while shaking a few nerves and chimneys thankfully did not claim any lives. I am hoping to send at least two newsletters per year so please keep sending published papers, interesting articles and updates to your area contact person or directly to myself for inclusion in future newsletters. Haere ra (farewell))

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