

5/26/21

## Genetic Technology Committee Report

The Genetic Technology committee met on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed the lab supply shortages resulting from COVID testing, including the specific situations creating these shortages, and traded tips and tricks for overcoming these obstacles. We discussed the RNA interference technology that has recently emerged in both trait and sprayable application forms. We discussed various methods of GM seed disposal and our thoughts on petitioning to add desiccation and freezing as approved methods of GM seed disposal. We are hoping to validate those methods across several labs as viable alternatives in order to gather evidence to further support this position. We reviewed the 2020 Genetics Superworkshop this year due to their being no annual meeting last year and while it was reviewed in phone conferences over the course of the year, we felt it important to discuss it again in light of the upcoming Superworkshop for this winter.

The committee created a planning committee for the 2022 Genetics Superworkshop to take place at the Iowa State seed lab intended in February of 2022. Thus far, we have 12 members working on that planning committee. We discussed holding the workshop at a different time of the year to accommodate more schedules and will send out a survey to collect everyone's thoughts on that. We also discussed additional topics to cover during the Superworkshop such as sampling, additional tours, and GM seed disposal among others.

The results of the genetic proficiency test were not discussed on this particular call as the due date for result submission has not arrived yet. We will discuss this on an upcoming conference call. We have decided to revisit the proficiencies for the three new categories: genetic purity, trait purity, and adventitious presence. The goal is to make each proficiency more accessible for every lab regardless of the technology available at that lab. Making the proficiencies available to non-genetic members was also discussed.

A call for another co-chair was put out to the committee but has yet to be answered. In addition, the RGT Board of Examiners will need an additional member, and this call was placed as well.

We also intend to begin submitting articles for the newsletter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Richeson & Anna Doornink, Genetic technology co-chairs