

6/15/2023

Genetic Technology Committee Report

The Genetic Technology committee met on Monday, June 12th. The committee reviewed the duties of the committee and welcome our new genetics members: Mackenzie Mattern, RGT, from SoDak Labs and Zach Duray, CGT from Illinois Crop Improvement. We reviewed our membership and subcommittees and held a sign up for each committee. We reviewed the results of our proficiency test for this past year and went through each question and answer one at a time. We put out a call for a member to take over genetics proficiency testing in the way Ellen Phillips had formerly done before her retirement, but the call was unanswered. An alternate option was also presented: one in which each member of Genetic Technology submits a single question and answer for that year's proficiency test.

Goals were created for each subcommittee with a requirement that one goal from each subcommittee be fulfilled before the next annual meeting. The Lab Standards goals included a committee SOP, template report format, reinstatement form review, and a welcome packet for new members. The reinstatement form review will more than likely be unnecessary now with the proposed rule change. A grade requirement change proposal for C&B change was also submitted prior to the annual meeting requesting a requirement of a "C" grade or higher for a course to count towards points to take the exams. This is also a proposed rule change for this year.

The Education subcommittee goals included webinar topics and production, the 2024 Genetics Superworkshop planning, proficiency test questions, workshop requests, and pop quizzes. This coming year will ultimately be spent planning the 2024 Genetics Superworkshop occurring in February 2024. In the interest of identifying webinar topics and workshop focuses, a little of the most missed questions on the RGT exams was compiled by topic. The PCR Master Mix calculations webinar was recorded and presented last year.

We reviewed the 2022 Genetics Superworkshop in anticipation of the planning for 2024's workshop, including the highest rated topics and areas for improvement. For the upcoming superworkshop, we will need to produce speakers (who earn CE points for presenting), topic requests, and any hands-on activities requests.

The Research subcommittee gave an update on the STRF particle size study. Kalyn gave a review of the genetic testing workshop from this year's meeting, and Maranda sent us an update on the devitalization by freezing study being conducted by other seed scientists. The goal of the Research subcommittee is to come up with a new STRF proposal.

The Newsletter subcommittee has several goals to choose from this upcoming year. We need to submit our annual meeting agendas to the newsletter prior to the annual meeting. The other goals of this subcommittee as far as newsletter submissions include proficiency test review, book reviews, this very committee report, a summary of the Genetic Testing Workshop at the annual meeting, new member biographies, a member spotlight, and topics on things such as GM tech acceptance and science diplomacy. We submitted a review of the 2022 Genetics Superworkshop and a genetics vocabulary crossword puzzle. We also reviewed the guidelines for newsletter submission.

We discussed the need for recommendations for the RGT BOE. We require two new members to fill open positions. Brad Johnson and Zach Duray volunteered to fill the vacancies. However, should the new rule proposal regarding Registered members ONLY on the Board of Examiners, we may find ourselves needing one more person. We are currently awaiting the outcome of that potential rule change.

We are in need of seed for the herbicide bioassay practicals, both corn and soybean. Please, see Kalyn with any questions or concerns regarding seed sourcing for the exams if you think you may be able to be of assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Richeson & Kalyn Brix, Genetic technology co-chairs