

Minutes 2004 NE-183 Technical Committee Meeting
Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center
Fletcher, NC

November 5, 6, 2004

Those in attendance:

Win Cowgill Rutgers
Jon Clements Massachusetts
David Lockwood Tennessee
Teryl Roper Wisconsin
Thor Lindstrom Utah
Charlie Embree Nova Scotia
Rafael Parra Mexico (New York)
Gene Mielke Oregon
Steve McArtney North Carolina
Duane Greene Massachusetts
Rob Crassweller Pennsylvania
Stephen Miller USDA
Peter Hirst Indiana
Ian Merwin New York
Robert Seem New York (Administrative Advisor)
Mike Parker North Carolina
JD Obermiller North Carolina
Joan Runkel, Michigan

Note:

Motions in Red

Important items in Blue

Meeting convened at 8:05 am on Friday November 5, 2004

Introductory comments by Win Cowgill (Chair) and Mike Parker (Local Host). Winston Haglee, Interim Director at NC State, gave an overview of Ag research at NC State.

Dr Seem, Administrative Advisor, offered some introductory observations and comments. We are now on a one year extension of the last re-write of the project that will expire on 30 September 2005. The project could morph into a coordinating committee. In this way station dollars could be used for travel, but not for research. This is an easier option to pursue. The question arose as to how to keep the website operating. If a coordinating committee were formed the current method of funding might work if enough people attend. NE-183 has been a model project in that a problem was identified, research planned and conducted, and data shared and information disseminated.

Diane Miller (Ohio State) suggested a replacement project to evaluate cultivars more broadly, to include apples, pears, and stone fruit. However, getting approval for many small projects under an overall umbrella would be difficult.

A discussion about specialty crops funds that may become available through congress was had.

A discussion ensued as to the merits of a coordinating committee versus a regional project.

Motion by Crassweller, seconded by S. Miller. Move to form a coordinating committee to discuss evaluation of tree fruit cultivars. Question called. Motion passed unanimously.

A committee was appointed to work on forming the new project consisting of Merwin, D. Miller, Roper, Cowgill, Crassweller. Crassweller to chair.

1999 Planting

No uniform data will be collected in 2005. Some cooperators will maintain their plantings and others will remove part or all of the trees. Those with plantings are asked to take height and spread data in 2004.

Not all sites with 1999 plantings have submitted data for the project. Further, it appears that some data may have been lost in submission.

The pest plantings are being handled separately. Pest plantings in ID, MI, & CT have not provided any data to date. 2004 data will be sent to Steve Miller (USDA) who will forward the data to Ron McNew after being checked by others. Steve Miller will call those who have not sent data and will request it.

Deadline for 99-03 data is 31 December 2004

Deadline for 2004 data is 1 February 2004

Data checkers will include Cheryl Hampson, Rob Crassweller, and Duane Greene.

Publications:

The group reviewed page charges for publishing in J. American Pomological Society. Bob Seem wondered whether he could pick up the page charges for the 3 articles yet to be published this year from the 1995 planting; and he said that he would do that.

1995 papers:

Introduction	Greene
Rootstocks	Hampson
Fruit Quality	S. Miller
Flower Quality	Ferree
Growth & Yield	Crassweller
Fruit Sensory	S. Miller
Diseases	Biggs & Miller
Cultivar and Site	S. Miller
Summary	Cowgill & Schupp

Nutrition? Roper
There are three other disease papers and apparently an insect paper.

The following papers are planned from the 1999 planting and suggested authors are listed by the proposed publication.

1999 Planting Papers

Fruit Quality	Hampson/Greene
Flowering/Fruit set	Greene
Growth & Yield	Hampson/Greene
Fruit Sensory	S. Miller
Summary	Cowgille/Schupp

Perhaps at least one paper on diseases?

Photography Report

Clements proposed making a database with photos where people could input data on their own. Mention was made of an apple cultivar site at Purdue University that provides extensive data on the PRI cultivars and selections. Assembling a database of apple cultivars might be an objective of the new correlation project. A request was made for cooperators to provide photos for the website.

Website Report

Members were asked to review their information on the website and update the data as necessary. A request was made the pdf files from journal articles related to the project be forwarded to Win or Jon for inclusion on the website. Dollars dedicated to maintaining the website have been shrinking each year as attendance has declined.

Saturday November 6, 2004

8:30 am re-convened.

Dr. Curt Rom from Arkansas gave an overview of his apple breeding program. He has materials that will soon be released to the nursery industry and numerous elite selections in preparation. Materials range from very early to very late. All releases will be patented and the names will be trademarked.

9:15 Cowgill reviewed the discussion of the committee meeting last night to write a proposal for a coordinating committee. Dr. Seem advised that we have to get approval to write a proposal, but that only requires a paragraph.

A discussion ensued about how to maintain the NE-183 website. There is much information available there in addition to links to individual sites. A question was raised about the disconnect between the directors' priority to publicize the work of regional projects and the lack of funding to do this important work.

The desire is to create a coordinating committee similar to NCR-22 that works on small fruits, except this would deal with tree fruits.

9:35 State Reports

Arkansas. Nothing to report beyond what is in the written report and cultivar presentation.

Indiana. Had a good crop this year without hail or frost. Ran about 10 days early. Zestar and Silken were both good. Hirst is using the planting to look at flower development and fruit size. He has isolated genes that may be associated with fruit size.

Massachusetts. Thinning program on these plantings is 0.5 lb Sevin plus 6 ppm NAA. Growing season was cool this year. Several cultivars have performed well; Silken, Hampshire, NJ 90. Zestar and Ambrosia are also good in the Northeast.

Mexico. Rafael reported on the apple industry in Mexico.

New Jersey. Season was early with warm weather in May and early June. Using a low rate of Sevin at petal fall felt that he over-thinned the block. Harvest was early. Have a statewide Extension Pomologist position open 70/30 Research/Extension split.

North Carolina. Hurricanes this fall led to substantial rainfall. Spring was warm with contracted bloom. Some rain during pollination reduced set. Fruit were hand thinned. Russet average. Zestar is good early. Shizuka is good for people who like Mutsu. The Coop series are good. September Wonder is a good early Fuji. Pink Lady is a good apple for NC.

Nova Scotia. Normal spring until mid-May and then cool and wet. Bloom occurred over two weeks and was wet so pollination and fruit set was poor. Northern Spy did not set even though earlier and later fruit set OK. With light set, fruit size was good and yield did not fall as much as predicted.

Oregon. Preliminary report is provided. The spring was very warm. Bloom was ~2 weeks early. Harvest was also early. The fall is warm. Pears still have green leaves which is unusual. Fruit has a lot of russet, which is unusual with warm dry weather. Some of the russet may be caused by early sunburn.

Pennsylvania. Cool, wet, and early season. One of the best coloring years in 20 years at Rock Springs. The best selling apple in their campus market this fall was Silken. A storm came through the Biglerville planting this summer and destroyed the 1999 planting

Utah. Warm early summer. Cool temperatures in August and September led to good color. Utah has a research/Extension specialist position available.

West Virginia. Bloom was normal to slightly advanced. Very warm weather during the thinning window. Early cultivars matured early. Later cultivars matured at a more normal time period. Scab was a major problem. Nova was used this year. May have Nova resistance in WV. Rainfall was above normal in the spring.

Wisconsin. The season was cooler than normal. Late May and early June were very wet. September was warm, thus coloring was not good.

Motion. A statement of thanks and gratitude for the work that Bob Seem did in behalf of the group. Secretary will write a letter in behalf of the group. M. Rom.. S. Crassweller.

Cultivar Discussion

9 voting

Zestar. Has a unique flavor for the early season. Better than other apples that ripen in the same time period. 7 thumbs up.

Silken. Small, but with good flavor. Adapted to local markets. Won't ship. Very good market acceptance. Not well adapted to warm climates. Sunburns easily. Nice tree. Must be heavily thinned, much lateral bloom sets. Very scab susceptible. 6 thumbs up.

NJ109. Average eating quality. Good fruit finish. Large fruit. Acidic. 0

NY79507-49. Marginal quality. Good scab and fireblight resistance. Good mix of acid/sugar. 1 thumb up. Gene for calcium and magnesium deficiency in Cornell program from Melba.

NJ90. Middle of the road. Drops Heavily. Tough skin. Highly susceptible to scab. 3 thumbs up.

CQR-50. Large fruit Similar to Winter Banana. 0 votes

NY-79507-72. Nice spurry tree. Flat shape. Looks like a Rome. Poor yields. 0 votes.

September Wonder Fuji. Good color and flavor. Doesn't store well. Taste was more bland than regular fuji. Must delay harvest until fully ripe. Probably has potential for direct market. 7 Votes.

Crimson Crisp (Coop 39). Subject to cedar apple rust, watercore, and fire blight. Medium sized fruit. Similar to Jonathan with more robust flavor. 5 votes.

CQ17. Very had fruit. Bland this year. Fruit was unattractive, greasy skin. Watercores substantially. Crops heavily. Nice tree. 0 votes

Ambrosia. Color is very good. Fine texture. Robust flavor. Yield is very poor. Fruit size is variable. 5 votes

Delblush. Dropped heavily. Bruises easily. Russets. Very acidic. Stores better than Golden. 1 vote.

Runkel. Large fruit, good color. Looks better than it tastes. Produced well with good yield efficiency. Flavor can be bland, can be sweet at high starch index. Tough skin. Biennial tendency. 1 vote.

Hampshire. Develops good flavor. Susceptible to scab, rosy aphid, scarf skin. Drops. McIntosh type, but better. Consistent. 4 votes.

NY65707-19. Average quality. Dropped a lot. 0 votes.

Sundance (Coop 29). Bland flavor. Russets heavily. Good size. Marginal quality. 2 votes

Autumn Gold. Average desirability. Mediocre quality. 1 vote.

Chinook. Small size. Doesn't do well in warm climates. 0 votes.

BC-8S-26-50. Ugly apple. 1 vote

Cripps Pink. (Pink Lady) Too late for short seasons in north. Small size. Hammered appearance. Coarse texture. HS to scab rosy aphid. Yield is ok. Highly rated in south warm areas. 2/7 votes.

Pinova. Don't eat off tree. Quality improves in storage. 3/5 votes.

Scarlet O'hara. Good tasting, but susceptible to moldy core, fireblight.

Motion to write thank you letters to Mike Parker & his supervisor.

12:30 pm Motion to adjourn

Respectfully Submitted by Teryl Roper