THE NEWS LETTER

of the

Association of Official Seed Analysts

of

North America

Volume 3, Number 9 September, 1929

T-H-E N-E-W-S L-E-T-T-E-R

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Association of Official Seed Analysts
of
North America

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President: F. D. Holmes, Agri. Exp. Sta., College Park, Md.

Vice-President: G. T. French, Dept. of Agri., Richmond, Va.

Secretary-Treasurer: A. L. Stone, Agronomy Building, Madison, Wis.

The President and Miss Lute have saved the life of the News Letter. It very nearly died this month. We suppose there is some truth in the old saying that "while there is life there is hope". Well -- here's hoping.

We are off on a week's holiday on the Gatineau River around with many large tubes of colour, brushes and sketch boards, consequently we are in the best of moods, otherwise we might be tempted to wax sarcastic.

The Editor.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

College Park, Md.,
Sept. 10, 1929.

Fellow Analysts:

This is written on my own responsibility and without any prompting of the Editor. Perhaps he said enough on the subject of the condition of the News Letter in the last issue. I want to say a word, however.

The Association has approved the publishing of the News Letter on two occasions -- at Detroit and at New York. I believe that the vast majority of our analysts are glad to receive it once a month. Further, I believe that most of you will agree with me that it performs an important function for ~~our~~ us in that it provides a ready means for each of us to get in touch with other analysts with a minimum effort.

Whey, then, is the News Letter not better supported? Is it not the kind of publication you want? Just why is it not going as it should? Who is responsible

The President's Page (Continued)

for its presentmoribund condition? Do you want to see its publication continued? Do you feel that it is your paper? If our Association can not or will not make a thing go that it has twice gone on record as favouring, then, it seems to me, the Association itself is in little if any better condition than the News Letter.

I understand, as all of you must, that our Association is a loosely held together group. But surely there is enough of self-interest, good fellowship, and sense of honour to carry out self-imposed duties, to carry its legitimate work along. The News Letter is an undertaking of us all -- certainly of all who approved it at the Detroit and the New York meetings. We should see it through.

It is my own belief that the explanation of the condition of the News Letter is to be found in the old saying that "what is everybody's business is notbody's business". Each one of us waits for the other fellow to send the Editor the copy he needs. We intend to send something but find a dozen excuses for not doing so and in many cases go to almost as much trouble to find the excuse as would be required to do the work. Of all the excuses put forward probably the least plausible one is that of lack of time. It is lack of interest not lack of time that keeps us from such work. The man with lots of work always has time for it. It is the man with little that can't find the time. He is too busy hunting excuses. Whatever else we do, let's be honest with ourselves.

Many do not send items to the Editor because they are not thought to be of interest to others. This is most unfortunate. Send those items along. Let the Editor judge whether or not they are of sufficient interest to be published -- that is one of the things he is paid (?) for doing. Don't be so modest.

Just to show you how I practice what I preach you will notice elsewhere in this issue "Maryland Notes". These will be seen in every issue for the remainder of the year. How can I be so sure of this? Well, I'm going to let all of you who are heads of laboratories in on a little secret -- those who are not in charge of laboratories should not read the remainder of this paragraph. I (the boss) have made it the duty of a member of my staff to prepare these notes for the Editor before the 10th of each month. This put my reputation (as a boss) to the test. How many of you will risk as much? Don't let modesty hold you back. Come to the front and

The President's Page (Continued)

stay there. Let your laboratory be heard from every month. If you can't stand the limelight, send your contribution to the Editor anonymously.

W. S. Holmes
President.

COLORADO

Following a trip of consultation to various laboratories by Miss Lute, the Colorado laboratory has installed considerable new equipment. New chambers for various temperatures lower than room temperature with Kelvinator cooling system have just been completed and appear to be very satisfactory. A new Marchant Calculator to compute percentages, etc., is so interesting a plaything that it is hard to leave it at night. New equipment for counting seeds and placing them in substrata is just being put into place while a Leendertz blower is expected to arrive from Hollandis a short time. An additional balance for large seed bulks has also been purchased.

All working tables have been covered with battleship linoleum cemented on and finished with a moulding at the edge.

Mr. B. J. Thornton has been appointed seed inspector, he will also have charge of the weed eradication work.

MARYLAND NOTES

Mr. Allen of the Alabama Seed Laboratory visited us the middle of August. He was on a tour of inspection of various laboratories in the East and Middle West to gather information on apparatus and methods for his new laboratory.

One of the two units of our new germinators is nearing completion. The doors should be on in a few days. This will mark the completion of the chambers of this unit. The coolingcoils, the heating elements, and the temperature and the humidity controls must then be added to complete what we hope will be a "satisfactory", if not the "satisfactory", germinator. We should like to have any interested analyst visit the laboratory while these chambers are being built.

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MARYLAND (Continued)

The laboratory had an exhibit at the State Fair last week. Educational exhibits are needed in Maryland for teaching our farmers the value of the seed law and the work of the laboratory.

The Committee on Cooperation is getting a late start but expects to be very active for next few months. Four chief lines of work will be in progress.

1. New literature of interest to seed laboratories will be summarized by Mr. Munn.

2. Additions will be made to the list of seeds available for laboratories desiring to increase their collections.

3. Work will be undertaken with a view to establishing the northern limits of seed production by Johnson Grass. Miss Jessie C. Ayres of the Idaho Laboratory will be in charge of this work.

4. Work on the occurrence of mottled seeds in Melilotus officinalis with a view to determining whether such seeds may be used as a basis for determining the amount of mixture of this species with M. alba is being carried on by a committee composed of members from a large number of laboratories. The complete personnel of this committee will be announced later. Mr. Fowlds of the South Dakota laboratory has been working on this problem for some years.

Send in your orders for

TOLERANCE TABLES

Do not forget the request for further designs for the badge of the Association.

A letter has been received from the Secretary drawing our attention again to the minutes of the Program Committee which met at Washington, D.C. on June 3. We again wish to draw to your attention that all papers be limited to ten minutes with ten minutes to be allowed for discussion, and that abstracts of all papers be published in the News Letter previous to the meeting so that discussions could be more to the point.

Notice is hereby given that anyone wishing to present a paper at the Des Moines, Iowa, meeting must furnish a brief abstract to Secretary A. L. Stone not later than November 10, 1929.

We trust that these abstracts may be sent in in time to be published in our November News Letter as the December letter might not be published until near the end of the month.

Ottawa Laboratory

The 1,000 kernel weight in some economic plants and weeds.

The following tabulation contains the 1,000 kernel weights of all species contained in the 100 Economic and Weed Seed collection which is prepared and distributed by the Seed Branch. Weighings were made on two or four lots of 500 seeds from the same samples and the average taken. It was found in the majority of cases that very little variation occurred between the two 500 lots counted and weighed by different analysts. These lots of seed have been stored at this laboratory from one to ten or fifteen years so that moisture content should be taken into consideration.

	Grams		Grams
1. Common Millet	2.147	20. Alsike Clover	.680
2. Japanese Millet	5.131	21. Alfalfa	1.784
3. Timothy	.357	22. Sweet Clover	2.085
4. Red Top	.092	23. Sainfoin	19.930
5. Brown Top	.066	24. Spring Vetch	45.955
6. Tall Oat Grass	2.760	25. Hairy Vetch	25.407
7. Orchard Grass	.694	26. Johnson Grass	3.678
8. Crested Dogstail	.499	27. Crabgrass	.253
9. Canada Blue Grass	.166	28. Old Witch Grass	.349
10. Kentucky Blue Grass	.182	29. Barnyard Grass	1.175
11. Sheep's Fescue	.857	30. Green Foxtail	1.148
12. Meadow Fescue	1.808	31. Yellow Foxtail	2.255
13. Awnless Brome Grass	3.582	32. Wild Oats	21.240
14. Perennial Rye Grass	1.867	33. False Wild Oats	17.520
15. Italian Rye Grass	2.056	34. Chess	8.050
16. Western Rye Grass	2.820	35. Couch Grass	4.015
17. Crimson Clover	2.894	36. Wild Barley	1.650
18. Red Clover	1.843	37. Sedges	.504
19. White Clover	.487	38. Docks	.145

	Grams		Grams
39. Sheep Sorrel	.450	70. Wild Vetch	3.850
40. Lady's Thumb	1.177	71. Low Mallow	1.615
41. Wild Buckwheat	5.182	72. Evening Primrose	.377
42. Russian Pigweed	1.100	73. Wild Carrot	.870
43. Lamb's Quarters	.701	74. Field Bindweed	11.705
44. Red-root Pigweed	.439	75. Dodder	.262
45. Russian Thistle	1.762	76. Stickseed	1.342
46. Spurrey	.477	77. Corn Gromwell	5.417
47. Chickweed	.099	78. Blue Weed	2.747
48. Purple Cockle	13.730	79. Blue Vervain	.243
49. Night-flowering catchfly	.964	80. Hemp Nettle	3.438
50. Bladder Campion	.678	81. Catnip	.583
51. White Cockle	.866	82. Heal-all	.666
52. Cow Cockle	5.912	83. Ribgrass	1.607
53. Buttercup	1.294	84. Common Plantain	.207
54. Stinkweed	1.178	85. Pale Plantain	.475
55. Common Peppergrass	.210	86. Bedstraw	.466
56. Field Peppergrass	2.006	87. Great Ragweed	13.600
57. Shepherd's Purse	.090	88. Common Ragweed	3.740
58. Western False Flax	.980	89. Yellow Daisy	.201
59. Flat-seeded False Flax	2.635	90. Prairie Sunflower	5.535
60. Small-seeded False Flax	.388	91. Stinking Mayweed	.346
61. Ball Mustard	3.037	92. Yarrow	.134
62. Wild Radish	10.845	93. Ox-eye Daisy	.295
63. Wild Mustard	2.419	94. Canada Thistle	.789
64. Hare's-ear Mustard	2.564	95. Bull Thistle	2.671
65. Tumbling Mustard	.192	96. Chicory	.750
66. Wormseed Mustard	.166	97. Perennial Sow Thistle	.485
67. Cinquefoil	.530	98. Annual Sow Thistle	.244
68. Prairie Rose	12.380	99. Orange Hawkweed	.119
69. Black Medick	1.563	100. Ergot of Rye	31.240