

“Will you still need me, will you still read me, when I’m 64?”

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INTRODUCTION

The first Oat Newsletter was published by the National Oat Conference in 1950. It was published once a year and mailed out to “oat workers” only. The newsletter was designed to supplement the Uniform Nursery reports by providing short research updates, meeting information, community information, and reports from oat research stations concerning yields, disease outbreaks, etc.. Past issues contain a fascinating history, and are well worth reading.

Starting in 1998, the newsletter was hosted online by the USDA’s GrainGenes website. The last issue was published in 2006, but, by this time, the newsletter was in decline. This was not surprising, as people had begun taking advantage of email, cheap long-distance phone calls, and easy access to the Internet to keep in touch. On-line databases were also making research information more readily available, and GrainGenes and POOL (Pedigrees Of Oat Lines), for example, had become important resources for people working on oats.

So why continue with the Oat Newsletter? E-mail and voice conferencing may function well to keep smaller groups of people together, but do not allow for input from outside the group.

Fewer people work solely on oats and many are unable to attend oat conferences or meetings. AOWC proceedings will continue to be published in the Newsletter, and other conferences, including the IOC, will be encouraged to submit conference reports for inclusion as well. There is also still a need to discuss project options, share preliminary information, and keep each other updated concerning a myriad of things, including personal stories.

The new Oat Newsletter, linked to the Oat Global portal on GrainGenes, is being designed to make it easier to post and view information. While there will continue to be an editorial process for formal Newsletter submissions, there will also be a direct discussion forum with minimal moderation. Those who subscribe will receive notifications when new material is available. At the end of each year, articles published during that year will be collected and archived in a volume. All previous issues of the newsletter, from 1950 onwards, will also be available. To quote K.S. Quisenberry in the inaugural edition of the Oat Newsletter, “Its success will depend on the cooperation of all workers.” The same holds true today, and we look forward to receiving your contributions.

Draft resolutions to be put forth at the Business Meeting of the AOWC, 2014:

Be it resolved that the description of the Oat Newsletter as outlined in the Statement of Purpose of the AOWC be altered to read as follows:

“The American Oat Workers Conference shall sponsor an on-line Oat Newsletter at the web address “oatnews.org”, which will direct users to a newsletter portal to be maintained by the USDA/GrainGenes. Members of the Conference are encouraged to submit information about their current research programs to the Editor of the Oat Newsletter. The Newsletter shall also serve as a vehicle of publication for the minutes of the business meetings of the Conference and of the American Oat Workers Conference Committee as well as for Committee Reports and other Conference notes. Abstracts of papers presented at the AOW Conference shall also be published in the Newsletter, but the publication of full reports will be encouraged following each conference. Contributions from other conferences will be encouraged so as to promote the dissemination of oat research information and news. An Oat Newsletter Editorial Committee of researchers and at least one industry rep is to be appointed by the AOWC Chair.”

Be it resolved that back issues the Oat Newsletter be made available online at the new Oat Newsletter site. Be it further resolved that we thank Mark Sorrells for providing a full set of back issues and PepsiCo for sponsoring the digitization of these back issues.

Be it resolved that the wording of the citation policy for the Newsletter be revised to read as follows:

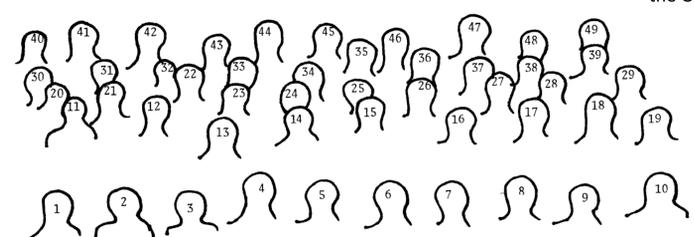
“Please contact the corresponding author before citing or linking to any article in the online newsletter. Newsletter reports are often preliminary works, and the author may be able to provide more up-to-date references.”



AOWC, 1986

Conference Members Attending Tour of Ottawa Oat Plots

- from Volume 37 of the Oat Newsletter.



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|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. C. Henson | 9. J. Frégeau | 17. H.W. Rines | 25. M. Sorrells | 33. D. Goslin | 41. B. Roskens |
| 2. H.L. Shands | 10. V.D. Burrows | 18. G. McDiarmid | 26. H.W. Dhm | 34. C.M. Brown | 42. D. Burnette |
| 3. B. Burnett | 11. S.H. Weaver | 19. L. Federizzi | 27. D. Schrickel | 35. J. Cretney | 43. H. Smith |
| 4. H.G. Marshall | 12. K.J. Frey | 20. D. Paton | 28. D. Baltenberger | 36. M.D. Simons | 44. D.M. Wesenberg |
| 5. R.A. Forsberg | 13. B. Fedak | 21. G. Fulcher | 29. R.V. Clark | 37. J.G. Moseman | 45. R. Gooding |
| 6. D.D. Stuthman | 14. L.J. Michel | 22. M. Lenz | 30. A.I. Comeau | 38. J.P. Dubuc | 46. D.L. Reeves |
| 7. M.S. McMullen | 15. M. Brinkman | 23. E. Sousa | 31. T. Rajhathy | 39. H.R. Klinck | 47. C.F. Murphy |
| 8. D. Western | 16. S. Kibite | 24. G. Sadaranganey | 32. F. Webster | 40. D. Brown | 48. B. Rossnagel |
| | | | | | 49. D. Falk |