

April 28, 2008

Dear OCIA Member,

The OCIA seed laboratory has been without a permanent lab manager since the retirement of Val Oyster in January 2008. After much deliberation and consideration, the OCIA board of directors has decided it would be more cost effective to outsource a portion of the seed testing for the foreseeable future.

As of June 1, 2008, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) Seed Testing Laboratory will begin testing samples for certification purposes. Although the actual seed testing will be completed at the ODAFF Seed Laboratory, OCIA will continue to be the final authority for seed certification in Oklahoma. OCIA will also continue to be responsible for the field inspections, to document the pedigree of the seed under production, to determine if seed meets final certification standards, and to issue report and certificates.

OCIA will also continue to conduct a *limited* amount of testing throughout the year as time and workload permit. **However, we will not be conducting any analyses on small grains (wheat, rye, barley, etc.).** All small grain samples must be sent to the ODAFF seed lab for testing in self-addressed mailing bags furnished by OCIA (contact the OCIA office for free sample bags).

Please continue to mail your Form C for all samples to the OCIA office. We must have the Form C in our office to track the pedigree of the seed you are producing. Certificates cannot be issued for any seed unless the Form C has been received.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions please give us a call. We appreciate your cooperation and will work with you to insure a smooth transition.

Sincerely,

Roger Osburn
Executive Director