

Results of Industry Advisory Committee Session 2000 GSCSSA Annual Meeting and Updated at the 2003 Annual Meeting

While these comments do not supercede the GSCSSA program objectives and specific priority areas, the areas listed below are of special interest to the members of the Industry Advisory Committee (IAC). The IAC are integral to the decision-making process by which proposals are funded.

The agenda for the 2000 GSCSSA meeting included a 3:30 p.m. session entitled "Research results farmers need to see; What's in this for me?" led by Dennis Glaser, the Chair of the GSCSSA Industry Advisory Committee. Mr. Glaser asked each of the members of the IAC what the GSCSSA Special Grant from USDA had accomplished for their benefit and in what direction did they wish to see the researchers go.

The benefits that industry leaders have received include: up-to-date information about Diuron and other fertilizers; how to maintain water quality; results of various Nitrogen trials on different grasses; better knowledge of soil properties and learning about the history of soils after 40 years of burning and grass growing. IAC members also stated that they pick up lots of information at each meeting they attend, that they can bounce ideas off each other during breaks and meals; that they receive encouragement from the group for innovative ideas and farming methods; and that having researchers and industry leaders from the three states working together gives a better picture of the entire situation.

Future directions as seen by the IAC include:

1. How can growers determine the correct nitrogen rates? Continue nitrogen testing.
2. How can growers determine what is in runoffs? Work with water quality issues.
3. Continue to look at the entire farming system, not just burning. This includes the waste stream.
4. Continue studying pests of grasses.
5. How can farmers retrieve information gleaned from this grant and other sources? There continues to be a need, especially in Idaho and Washington, for Extension education programming to fieldmen and producers.
6. What long-term crops are available to keep farmers in business. What kinds of alternate crops can be grown that don't require burning, EPA check-ups, and major chemical applications.
7. How can growers turn agricultural by-products into money.
8. Continue working on genetics. Growers need less stems and more seeds to make this a profitable business. More studies need to be done to protect plants against diseases and pests.