



# Southern Seed Association

Executive Office P.O. Box 209 • Leland, MS 38756

Phone (662) 686-6821 • Fax (662) 686-4518

email: southernseed@bellsouth.net • www.southernseed.net

Delivering Value that Serves the Membership

Oct./Nov.  
2009

## The Man Who Defused the Population Bomb

By GREGG EASTERBROOK  
(The Wall Street Journal 9-16-09)

Norman Borlaug arguably the greatest American of the 20th century died late Saturday after 95 richly accomplished years. The very personification of human goodness, Borlaug saved more lives than anyone who has ever lived. He was America's Albert Schweitzer: a brilliant man who forsook privilege and riches in order to help the dispossessed of distant lands. That this great man and benefactor to humanity died little-known in his own country speaks volumes about the superficiality of modern American culture.

Born in 1914 in rural Cresco, Iowa, where he was educated in a one-room schoolhouse, Borlaug won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work ending the India-Pakistan food shortage of the mid-1960s. He spent most of his life in impoverished nations, patiently teaching poor farmers in India, Mexico, South America, Africa and elsewhere the Green Revolution agricultural techniques that have prevented the global famines widely predicted when the world population began to skyrocket following World War II.

In 1999, the Atlantic Monthly estimated that Borlaug's efforts combined with those of the many developing-world agriculture-extension agents he trained and the crop-research facilities he founded in poor nations saved the lives of one billion human beings.

As a young agronomist, Borlaug helped develop some of the principles of Green Revolution agriculture on which the world now relies including hybrid crops selectively bred for vigor, and "shuttle breeding," a technique for accelerating the movement of disease immunity between strains of crops. He also helped develop cereals that were insensitive to the number of hours of light in a day, and could therefore be grown in many climates.

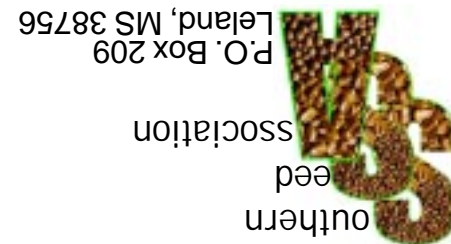
Green Revolution techniques caused both reliable harvests, and spectacular output. From the Civil War through the Dust Bowl, the typical American farm produced about 24 bushels of corn per acre; by 2006, the figure was about 155 bushels per acre.

Hoping to spread high-yield agriculture to the world's poor, in 1943 Borlaug moved to rural Mexico to establish an agricultural research station, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. Borlaug's little research station became the International Maize and Wheat Center, known by its Spanish abbreviation CIMMYT, that is now one of the globe's most important agricultural study facilities. At CIMMYT, Borlaug developed the high-yield, low-pesticide "dwarf" wheat upon which a substantial portion of the world's population now depends for sustenance.

In 1950, as Borlaug began his work in earnest, the world produced 692 million tons of grain for 2.2 billion people. By 1992, with Borlaug's concepts common, production was 1.9 billion tons of grain for 5.6 billion men and women: 2.8 times the food for 2.2 times the people. Global grain yields more than doubled during the period, from half a ton per acre to 1.1 tons; yields of rice and other foodstuffs improved similarly. Hunger declined in sync: From 1965 to 2005, global per capita food consumption rose to 2,798 calories daily from 2,063, with most of the increase in developing nations. In 2006, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization declared that malnutrition stands "at the lowest level in human history," despite the global population having trebled in a single century. (Cont'd. on insert)

### Inside this issue:

- Market Updates
- Richard's Column
- State Convention Reports
- Convention Photos
- Schedule of Events



P.O. Box 209  
Leland, MS 38756

Association

eed  
outhern

## Schedule of Events

**September 30-October 2, 2009**  
**Missouri Seedsmen's Association**  
**Resort at Port Arrowhead**  
**Lake of the Ozarks, MO**

**November 8-9, 2009**  
**ASTA Farm & Lawn Seed Conference**  
**Westin Crown Center**  
**Kansas City, MO**

**November 15-17, 2009**  
**Texas Seed Trade Association**  
**Hyatt Regency – Lost Pines**  
**Austin/Bastrop, TX**

**December 8-11, 2009**  
**ASTA 64<sup>th</sup> Corn & Sorghum Seed Research Conference**  
**ASTA 39<sup>th</sup> Soybean Seed Research Conference Seed**  
**Expo**  
**Hyatt Regency Chicago**  
**Chicago, IL**

**January 15-19, 2010**  
**91<sup>st</sup> Annual Southern Seed Association Convention**  
**Royal Palms Resort & Spa**  
**Phoenix, AZ**

**January 23-26, 2010**  
**ASTA 49<sup>th</sup> Vegetable & Flower Seed Conference**  
**Red Rock Resort & Casino**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

**January 28-29, 2010**  
**Arkansas Seed Dealers' Association Annual**  
**Winter Convention**  
**Embassy Suites on Financial Center Parkway**  
**Little Rock, AR**

PERMIT NO. 564  
Leland, MS  
PAID  
U.S. POSTAGE  
STANDARD  
PRESORTED



President  
Tye Curtis  
Curtis & Curtis, Inc.  
Clovis, NM

Delivering  
Value that  
Serves the  
Membership

1st Vice President  
Greg Hamner  
Clemmons & Hamner  
Seed, Inc.  
Killen, AL

2nd Vice President  
Jim Craig  
Stratton Seed Co.  
Stuttgart, AR

Executive Vice President  
Richard Taylor  
Leland, MS

## MARKET UPDATES

### Outside Markets

The Dow is up and the U.S. Dollar is down as investors are selling the Dollar and buying equities. The Dollar has reached a 1 year low, the Dow a 10 month high, and Gold has reached the second highest level ever. Gold is being bought as protection against inflation as the global economies improve. Hopefully, ag commodities will get to participate as well.

### Soybeans

New Crop values traded sharply lower after USDA September report showed the largest soybean production in history. The crop ratings are the best in 15 years, so additional down-side pressure is likely if this crop gets to mature frost-free. USDA increased soybean crush by 20 million bushels, exports up by 15 million, leaving the carryout at 220 million for 2010. Brazilian New Crop bean production was up 73 million bushels from August and up 184 million from last year.

### Corn/Milo

USDA is forecasting the second largest corn crop on record, with a record yield of 161.9 BPA. These estimates were in line with average trade guesses. These large numbers were mainly offset by strong feed use and exports which left the carryout about the same as last month. World stocks and China's production were both down some, but these could be absorbed by a big crop getting bigger in the U.S.

### Wheat

USDA issued no changes on Supply and Demand figures from last month. U.S. wheat stock-to-use ratio is the fifth most in 27 years and the rest of the world has plenty too. The price has gotten cheap enough that exports are up 17% from this time last year.

### Rice

Once again, USDA has completely confused the industry. Looking back to the July Supply/Demand report, USDA made dramatic reductions to U.S. production, resulting in a 14.5 ml cwt (55%) reduction to ending stocks. In this month's Supply/Demand report, USDA does a complete turn-around. USDA raised beginning stocks, raised yield, raised production, dropped domestic use and dropped exports. The net change for long grain was an increase of 10.2 ml cwts (72% increase) to ending stocks. Adjustments to medium/short grain were even more dramatic. Medium/short grain ending stocks were increased 105%.

Asian prices have yet to respond to the large production losses in India due to poor monsoon rains. The Indian government has announced the removal of the 70% import tariff for rice. The industry will closely watch for indications of possible Indian rice imports.

## From Richard's Desk:

SSA is excited to soon introduce a new addition to our eSSAy entitled "State of the State". We are asking our state directors and past presidents to submit a newsworthy article from their respective state that will be of interest to fellow seedsmen. We look forward to these upcoming articles to help us better understand the broad diversity of agriculture throughout our SSA states. Look for our first director's comments in the next issue of eSSAy.

Underway, are final plans for the 91st Annual SSA Convention, scheduled for January 15-19, 2010, in Phoenix. **Mark your calendars today** to attend the action packed program that President Tye and First Lady Leslie Curtis have planned. What could be better than starting off the New Year with friends and fellow colleagues in the beautiful and warm climate of Arizona.

RICHARD TAYLOR

Mark your calendars for the  
**91<sup>st</sup> annual  
ssa convention**  
January 15-19, 2010  
royal PalMs resort & sPa  
Phoenix, arizona