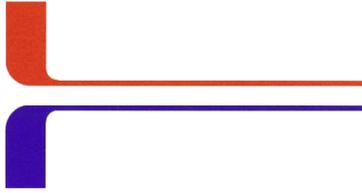


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SUBJECT: 2007 NTEP Warm-Season Grass Trials

TO: Cooperators and Entry Sponsors

FROM: Kevin Morris, NTEP Executive Director

DATE: March 5, 2007

At the recent NTEP Policy Committee meeting (Feb. 24-25 in Anaheim, CA), several decisions were made regarding upcoming warm-season grass trials that deserve an explanation. As you may have noticed, the payments to cooperators in these trials has been reduced compared to past years. Also, the number of official trial locations has been reduced, again compared to past trials. These decisions were made for the following reasons:

1. The Policy Committee has a new policy (within the past year) that all trials must not pay out more dollars for the trial location evaluation than are derived from entry revenue. In other words, these new trials must “pay for themselves”, including an allowance for NTEP overhead charges. Past warm-season grass trials often paid out more dollars to cooperators than was received from entry revenue.
2. Due to a low number of anticipated entries for all trials except bermudagrass, the Committee had to decide how to balance expenses with revenue. They decided to reduce the annual payments to cooperators for these trials so that the number of trial locations would represent a reasonable number for a national trial. In one case, buffalograss, they determined that the expected number of entries (3-4) was not enough to justify a national trial, at least this year.
3. NTEP is in the middle of budget reductions, due to several factors. Therefore, the Policy Committee approved a plan to reduce operating expenses by 16% , hold the line on salary increases, and reduce significantly NTEP’s contribution to the National Turfgrass Research Initiative. Therefore, many groups are contributing to the ‘belt-tightening’ measures.

Please know that these decisions were made only after considerable forethought and discussion. The Policy Committee consists of representation from many segments of the turfgrass industry (universities, seed producers, breeders, marketers, golf, sod production). They take their job very seriously, as do I.

If you have questions or concerns about these decisions, please feel free to contact me at kmorris@ntep.org or 301-504-5125. We appreciate any feedback you may have!