

June 22, 2006

Dear Plant License Task Force Member,

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Plant Licensing Task Force. The University of Minnesota has a long history of developing plant varieties and germplasm that contribute to our agricultural economy and our quality of life. I look forward to working with you as we analyze this history and make plans for the future.

The purpose of this letter is to provide details about the Task Force.

***Mission of the Task Force***

The Task Force was established by the Minnesota Legislature earlier this year to study the market impact on Minnesota producers of agricultural products from the University of Minnesota licensing germplasm.

***Membership***

I'll serve as chair of the Task Force in my role as Dean and Director of the Minnesota Extension Service and Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Members of the Task Force include representatives from the:

- Minnesota Apple Growers Association;
- Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers;
- Minnesota Barley Growers Association;
- Minnesota Crop Improvement Association;
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture;
- Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation;
- Minnesota Farmers Union;
- Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association;
- Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association;
- Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
- Northern Minnesota Forge Turf Seed Advisory Committee
- The Minnesota Grown Program
- University of Minnesota Office of Patents, Technology & Marketing;
- University of Minnesota Plant Breeders

A complete list of the members is enclosed.

***Timelines and Commitment***

A report with the recommendations of the Task Force will be delivered to the committees of the legislature with responsibility for higher education no later than January 15, 2007. The University suggests having four meetings of approximately four hours each with the final one being held in early December. We anticipate all the

meetings will be held in the Twin Cities area. Interactive video will be available at meetings after the July 7 meeting for members who live a great distance from the Twin Cities.

### ***Agenda and Structure of the First Meeting***

The first meeting of the group will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, July 7 on the St. Paul Campus in the Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics, 1500 Gortner Ave. A map is enclosed.

I have three goals for this first meeting:

- Provide all members an adequate amount of background information to define the challenges and complexities of various planting variety and germplasm licensing issues and identify any knowledge gaps that exist. The enclosed materials provide some background on where we are now. The discussion at the first meeting will provide more information and fill any knowledge gaps that exist.
- Agree on the ground rules and expectations for the Task Force. Part of this will be identifying key issues to address in future meetings.
- Agree on governing style and operating procedures of the Task Force.

### **Proposed Agenda**

10:00 -10:30	Introductory remarks and Charge of the Task Force—Bev Durgan, Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station
10:30 – 11:30	Task Force Members---Your Expectations
11:30 – 12:15	National and International licensing procedures
12:15 -1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 1:30 the U of M	Licensing procedures on agricultural and horticultural crops at
1:30 – 2:00	Case studies:
2:00 -3:00	Task Force Discussion: Self-Governing rules, next steps, housekeeping details, schedule and agenda for next meeting;
3:00	Adjournment

***Things to Think About Prior to the First Meeting***

- What would be the most efficient “rules of order” for the Task Force to govern itself?
- What information do you think you need from the University of Minnesota and other groups to make knowledgeable decisions?
- What are your expectations and vision for outcomes?
- What information would you like to share with the Task Force?
- What will be the policy regarding alternates when a member can not attend a meeting?

***Need Additional Assistance***

If you have any questions about Task Force logistics, please contact my assistant, Shelly Tschida at [stschida@umn.edu](mailto:stschida@umn.edu) or 612-624-7480. Contact me for questions about Task force goals or your role on the Task Force.

I look forward to working with you on the Plant License Task Force and hope to see you on July 7.

Sincerely,

Beverly R. Durgan  
Dean and Director, University of Minnesota Extension Service  
Director, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station

Attachments:

Map of St. Paul Campus

Task Force Members

Fruit Breeding at the University of Minnesota

Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station publications (Minnesota Hardy, Food for Life and Genetics to Genomics)

Cc: Robert Jones  
Tim Mulcahy  
Todd Iverson  
Kate VandenBosch