

## 2023 NOC Proposal

### **Leadership General Chair: Bill Cosgrove; Co-Field Trial Chairs Mark Brookshire & Mike Elsasser**

A "Leadership Committee"- made up of Mark Brookshire, Mike Elsasser and I will assemble a team of experienced field trialers who will then apply a "common sense" approach to put on a good National and minimize risk. When a risk becomes known, it will be assessed and dealt with appropriately.

### **Budget: Income \$57,050 Expense \$56,850**

The revised budget contains additional funds for agronomist survey / follow up / reporting. The budget also contains a line item Grounds for field improvements, rent, assistance with plant removal, etc. A number of "fluff" items have been cut or removed.

### **Dates: November 15 Training & Delegates; November 16 - 20 Field Trial**

Proposed dates for trial to begin are November 16 to November 20. Training will be offered the morning of November 15 and delegates meeting the afternoon of November 15.

### **Weather**

The weather in Ohio this time of year tends to a low 30's and highs in the 50's. There can be frost; snow but it is not likely.

### **Grounds: Marion & Chillicothe, OH**

We have hundreds of acres in Marion and Chillicothe Ohio to choose from. The Hite and Dresbach farms being among the properties, along with the Ebbers and Lusk farms. The primary cover is warm season grasses and should provide good broken cover. The final selection on properties may be delayed until to the end of summer/early fall and based on which properties will provide the best cover and venue. The approach to the water series will be to have access to farm ponds nearby, a larger body of water (St. Marys Lake, Indian Lake) and slow moving water (Little Miami River) in order to have open water. This also allows for a contingency in the event of unforeseen circumstances - which seems to be norm in National grounds.

### **Agronomist: Cecelia Lokai Minnich, American Society of Agronomist**

Our agronomist will be Cecelia Lokai Minnich. Ms Minnich is an ASA American Society of Agronomist certified crop advisor. Ms Minnich attended Ohio State University. Ms Minnich has many years of experience and we have successfully used her in the past. Her report provided for the the 2020 NAC was presented on the same format as was used in Pickneyville the year before (and can still be seen at [ESSFT.com](http://ESSFT.com) under Resource tab). We will follow her recommendation on the number and extent of surveys. Currently based on where we are and the primary concern being Canada and Virginia Rye grass, Ms Minnich's approach is to conduct an initial survey at the optimal time of year where the grasses are in early "bloom". Then return for a final inspection approximately several weeks later. Ms. Minnich will have support and there will be multiple sweeps of the fields to harvest identified plants. There will be a final sweep by field trial committee members just prior to National date. ***The budget reflects both monies for agronomist surveys and reports and a line item "grounds" for***

***subsequent maintenance.*** Personally I prefer a line item allowing for a more general use of funds to improve grounds than to set a precedent of multiple costly agronomist reports..that may not be necessary.

**Entry fee: \$300**

**Qualifications: 2 points**

We are proposing a 2 point qualification standard. The entry fee will be \$300. The budget is prepared on a 120 entry basis. Should entries come in less, more “fluff” will be cut.

**Pheasants: Elk Ridge Game Farm, Bucyrus, OH**

We will be using pheasants from Elk Ridge game farm. They have quality birds and are close to our venues.

**Gun Team**

Mike Elsasser will oversee the selection of our Gun Team.

**Hotels / Banquet Halls**

We have a good selection of hotels available in both Marion and Chilicothe- several we have used in the past. Several with conference and banquet room facilities. We will be in negotiations.

**Airport: Columbus, OH COL**

The airport nearest the grounds and hotels is Columbus.