

Changes in oat breeding staff at the University of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota barley geneticist/breeder, Kevin Smith, is taking on the oat breeding program. He will be assisted by a post doc (yet to be hired) who, it is hoped, will eventually take over and lead the oat breeding program. Meanwhile, Howard Rines' old ARS oat geneticist position has been converted into two post doc positions. One person (currently Juan Gutierrez) will work with David Garvin, the ARS wheat geneticist at St. Paul, on oat genomics and the other (position not yet filled) will work on oat rust with Shahryar Kianian, Director of the USDA Cereal Disease Lab. This second person will also be responsible for coordinating the oat regional nursery. In the meantime, Howard is assisting in the transition of these programs.

- submitted by Howard Rines, October, 2015.