

2025 Honorary Premier Seed Grower Award



Lonnie Perrine

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Lonnie Perrine, of Perham, began working for MCIA as a part-time field inspector in 1999. He was hired by Brenda Rogers and worked with Brenda, Jerry Herman, Ben Lang, and Seth Dagoberg during his years as an MCIA employee. He has inspected tens of thousands of acres of small grains and soybeans. He also inspected approved seed conditioner and bulk handling facilities for 10 years. He inspected his final soybean fields for MCIA in the fall of 2021.

Having completed 22 years of field inspections, he still, to this day, can drive by a field and draw its borders and other landmarks from memory. He has an expert ability to find “off types” and other varietal and agronomic issues in certified seed production fields. Through the years, his report writing and documentation became well known for its detail, clarity, and professional appearance. So much so, that his paperwork has been used as an example many times in MCIA inspector trainings.

Lonnie enjoyed seeing the new seed fields each year and the challenge of inspecting seed production. Describing varieties by their description and visual inspection is both a technical ability and art, and Lonnie took great pride in all of his work. Once, he recalls, during an inspection in Becker County, he even encountered two timber wolves. Fortunately, he completed the inspection unscathed.

Lonnie has left MCIA with one of its most valuable inspection tools ever: “Lonnie’s Soybean Grading” card is used by our inspectors to assist them in determining the timing of field inspections.

Lonnie and his wife, Linda, have lived in the Perham area on their farm for over 47 years. They have farmed various crops and raised Angus cattle for most of their lives. Lonnie was recently recognized by his local church for over 50 years of dedication as a member of the worship team; he has played bass guitar there since he was 16 years old.

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Brent Turnipseed

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Brent Turnipseed was born in Mississippi, but, as his father was a researcher and college professor, his family moved to Georgia, Minnesota, and Connecticut. While raising the family, his mother worked, as time permitted, in office positions. Brent's grandparents farmed in Mississippi. Trips back to their farm were always a highlight for young Brent.

He attended Mississippi State University, earning a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in agronomy and seed sciences. He was active in many areas of education, agronomy, and research during those years. His first job was at South Dakota State University. His first time in Brookings was cold. It was well below zero outside. He might stay there only a couple years, he thought. He could not have dreamed that this was the beginning of a career that would span decades.

In his 33 years (so far) at SDSU he has served as an assistant department head, professor, seed laboratory manager, student advisor to nearly 1,000 students, research lead, and crops team coach. Today, in what is described as a "working retirement transition," he serves as Interim Department Head of the Agronomy, Horticulture, and Plant Science Department. He has been faculty chair and advisor for multiple clubs and organizations at SDSU.

Brent's seed laboratory work and research, along with his teaching and student advising, is well known throughout the Midwest and the entire country. Under his lead they were one of leaders in the United States on cereal grain PAGE variety identification testing. Testing has become much safer and faster through HPLC testing, which is now more widely used thanks to their research. Brent is also currently serving AOSA on OECD international seed schemes, attending international meetings twice a year.

Brent has over a dozen peer-reviewed publications and many others publications to his name. As a registered seed technologist, seed laboratory manager, and professor, he has been able to work on many different angles of research and teaching. He has always had a passion for developing new testing methods and then improving them for accuracy and efficiency.

Brent has worked closely with MCIA in many aspects of seed testing, including conducting all seed tests on MCIA samples for many years and, today, partners with MCIA on tests that need to be outsourced to the SDSU seed laboratory. When MCIA transitioned to laboratory varietal identification testing on small grains, Brent provided crucial education about the process.

Brent has received many awards and much recognition in his career. He has served on local and national boards, from the Association of Official Seed Analysts to the USDA AMS Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. There is no way to measure how much Brent has guided his students and staff over the years and how much his research has impacted the industry. His contributions may best be described as unmeasurable.

Brent and his wife, Susan, have been married for 32 years. Susan has also been an educator her entire career. She is from Owatonna, Minnesota. They make frequent trips to see family there. Brent's "working" retirement has included a cruise this past year and a fishing trip to Canada. He and Susan enjoy fishing, gardening, hunting, and traveling.

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Brad and Joyce Barth

Brad Barth

Brad Barth grew up near St. Hilaire, Minnesota, and at a very young age he was helping his father, a custom airplane applicator, flag each pass while spraying fields. Growing up around crop production and the business of agriculture started his roots and love for farming, which led to a future in the seed business.

Brad graduated from college with a degree in accounting and worked as an accountant for 17 years. Brad's wife, Joyce, earned a degree as a dental assistant, a career she worked in for many years while she and Brad raised their son and three daughters in the Moorhead area.

Around 1997, the desire to farm began a journey that took them back 120 miles north to where they grew up. Located between Thief River Falls and Goodridge, Minnesota, they started Brad Barth Farms, doing custom work and their own crop production. About 10 years later, they built an MCIA-approved on-farm seed conditioning facility and seed business.

Brad Barth Farms today grows certified wheat varieties that they sell and supply to many area growers and MCIA Approved Facilities. Almost all their soybean seed production is for a private company. They also added 200 acres of irrigation. Brad has stated, "with this farm and these projects we must thank our long-time employee, Corey Larson. He has been my right-hand man for many years."

Brad has served on the MCIA Board of Directors for 6 years, 5 of those years as chairman. Hosting the AOSCA annual meeting in Minnesota was a highlight of his board tenure. There, Brad and Joyce met certified seed growers of all crops, from cotton to peanuts to wheat. The experience was both enjoyable and eye-opening.

The future is bright for Brad and Joyce, they say, "With nine grandkids and one son farming nearby the farm and seed business will eagerly continue. We love what we do and are so fortunate to have children and grandchildren. We make it a priority to stay connected and visit our four children often and they have blessed us with their wonderful children."

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Brian and Betsy Jensen

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Brian and Betsy Jensen grew up on opposite ends of Minnesota, 460 miles apart. Deep roots in agriculture brought them together. They have been married for 27 years and keep busy farming from the edge of the Lake Agassiz beach ridge to the heart of the Red River Valley. They have pursued successful careers in agriculture, operating a seed business, while raising a family.

Brian grew up on the family farm near Stephen, Minnesota, and at a young age was helping on the farm with the newly built, MCIA-approved, on-farm seed conditioning facility. Brian's first job was cleaning under the scale. The first tractor he drove was a Steiger Cougar disking.

Betsy grew up near Bricelyn, Minnesota. Her family had crops and livestock on their farm and owned a Case farm equipment dealership. She was very active in FFA and 4-H. Her agriculture and business interests took her to NDSU where she earned a degree in ag economics and met her future husband. Brian received degrees in agronomy and ag economics. After they married, Brian was quick to return to the farm and seed business; Betsy worked as a commodity broker. After a few years, Betsy began her career teaching farm management at Northland College. To this day, she is well known for all parts of her career: teaching, conducting marketing classes, and writing a regular column in *Prairie Grains* magazine, "Taming the Bulls and Bears."

Brian and Betsy have continued growing the farm, raising wheat, barley, soybeans, sugar beets, canola, and pinto beans. The seed business, Jensen Seed Co., conditions both certified seed and does custom cleaning for area growers. They raise and condition MCIA foundation seed including new releases from the University of Minnesota along with other public and private varieties. They are excited that their son, Conner, and brother-in-law, Nathan Smith, have joined the farm and seed business. They also give special thanks to all their farm help over the years, giving an extra special thank you to long time employee Joe Kazmierczak.

Brian and Betsy are very active in their local community. Brian served on the Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council, the township board, the sports booster club, and the Church Council. Betsy is an EMT and served on Church Council and has been very active in the agriculture community across the state. Along with their son, Conner, on the farm, they have two daughters, Holly, who attends college, and Carrie, a junior high school student.

Brian and Betsy enjoy raising their family on the farm, being active outdoors, and spending time with their family at the lake.

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Maynard Peterson

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Growing up, Maynard Peterson and his family farmed in a few different areas of northwest Minnesota and northeast North Dakota. They always had livestock and when they settled near Stephen, Minnesota, the farm was quite small. Delivering eggs to the local creamery and raising chickens was an important part of the farm in those days. Maynard drove both a John Deere R and a Model 60 when he was young. Raking hay was the tractor job he did the most. He was active in 4-H for the Tamarac Tacklers and in other regular school activities.

After graduating from Stephen, he attended East Grand Forks Technical college for diesel mechanics, all the while working on the family's growing farm. After college, he worked in the winter, and for neighboring farmers, and at his own farm operation. He was also a crop insurance adjuster for many years.

The farm grew, field by field. One fall, when his neighbor needed help harvesting, Maynard ran the neighbor's Hesston sugar beet harvester for him; the opportunity to raise sugar beets began the next year. Maynard's certified seed production started when a nearby farmer, John Jensen, asked him to grow certified seed, as Jensen Seed Co. had an on-farm seed conditioning facility. Seed production began to be an important part of the farm. Some years, almost every acre grown was for seed.

Today the farm grows wheat, soybeans, sugar beets, corn, and canola. Seed production continues each year for both certified wheat and soybeans for a private company. Maynard also has had a young producer farming with him the past few years.

In his spare time, Maynard collects cars, snowmobiles, and other vintage items. He curled for many years and continues to enjoy attending annual Snowmobile Hall of Fame activities. He says he has always enjoyed growing crops, raising seed, and the great friendships he has made in the seed business.