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What is variety licensing?

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) is the licensing agent for agronomic crops developed at the University of Minnesota. Plant breeders at the University continue to develop new varieties of soybeans, wheat, barley, oats, and grasses. MCIA serves as the primary point of contact for producers and processors interested in new Minnesota varieties.

Why are some varieties licensed?

Crop varieties that are suitable for large-scale commercial production are released as public varieties through the traditional Foundation Seed distribution program. However, many recent releases are food-grade or special-use varieties that require unique production and handling capabilities or access to specialty markets.

Who is eligible to license varieties?

Producers or companies that can demonstrate their capability to successfully produce and commercialize products of the type to be licensed will be considered as licensing partners to the University.

How are varieties licensed?

MCIA provides a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) which allows an individual or company to evaluate the agronomic traits and to assess the potential for commercialization. Parties interested in licensing may submit a proposal for licensing to MCIA. Proposals are reviewed based on criteria established to identify licensing partners most appropriate for the variety being released.

