

Laboratory Report

The seed laboratory staff is preparing for the busy time of the seed-testing season. We have been receiving some small grain samples and overall the quality has been fair – good with only a few purity and germinations below certified seed standards.

The majority of small grain germinations have been in the 85 – 95% range with an average of 92%. The average small grain moisture is 13%. Some small grain lots have a higher presence of crop contamination than we have noticed in recent years. Careful seed conditioning may be required to achieve optimal purity. If you think there is a potential problem with a seed lot concerning purity or germination, be sure to send in a sample for preliminary testing.

Samples will be processed in the following order. For those seeking fast turnaround, a rush can be requested for a fee. Samples with a rush will be processed 1st, purity only samples 2nd, and the rest of the samples in the order they have been received.

MCIA is testing annual seed crops in our laboratory in St. Paul. Perennial and native testing is being conducted at BioDiagnostics, Inc., located in River Falls, Wisconsin and the South Dakota State University Seed Testing Laboratory located in Brookings, South Dakota. Please follow these instructions:

Instructions for Perennial and Native Testing

1. Please send a copy of the Seed Sampling Report and samples packaged in an MCIA sample bag addressed to the laboratory indicated below.
2. The day the sample is shipped, fax the Seed Sampling Report that indicates the laboratory where the sample has been sent to MCIA at (612) 625-3748.
3. Send the original sampling report along with the tag or any other supporting documentation to the MCIA office.
4. All questions regarding your samples should be directed to the MCIA office.

Alfalfa, Birdsfoot trefoil, Clover, Crownvetch, Bluegrass, Timothy, and Reed canarygrass

Send to: BioDiagnostics, Inc.
507 Highland Drive
River Falls, WI 54022

Bentgrass, Bromegrass, Fescues, Orchardgrass, Redtop, Ryegrass, Wheatgrass, Big bluestem, Canada wildrye, Indiangrass, Little bluestem, Mixtures, Natives & Forbs, Sideoats-grama, and Switchgrass

Send to: SDSU Seed Testing Laboratory
Box 2207-A
Ag Hall 242
Brookings, SD 57007

If you have any questions please feel free to call Nathan Winter in the seed laboratory. Good luck with the fall harvest and seed conditioning in the coming months.

-Nathan Winter

MCIA Annual Meeting Dates Set for 2005

MCIA's 102nd Annual Meeting has been set for Thursday & Friday, January 20-21, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, St. Cloud, MN.

We hope to see you there!

Director Nominations

The MCIA Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to serve on the MCIA Board of Directors. If you would like to serve on the Board of Directors or would like to nominate someone, please contact the MCIA office.

The term of Barry Bondhus in District 6, Southwest Minnesota, will expire in January. Barry has served two terms and is not eligible for re-election.

Director nominations are also open for District 1, Stevan Helmstetter, Roseau, MN, District 3, Peter Friederichs, Foxhome, MN, and Seed Trade, Dennis Sjogren, Hutchinson, MN. These three individuals are eligible for re-election having served only one three-year term. Send nominations to the MCIA office and they will be forwarded to the nomination committee.

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Remember to vote November 2!

Award Nominations Now Open

Do you know someone who should be recognized for their outstanding service to MCIA, the seed industry and their community?

Nominations are open for the Premier Seedsman, Honorary Premier Seedsman and Achievement in Crop Improvement Awards. Awards will be presented at the MCIA annual meeting in St. Cloud, MN, January 20-21, 2005.

If you wish to nominate a candidate, do so by letter. Describe the nominee's qualifications according to the guidelines. Call the MCIA office at 1-800-510-6242 for a complete copy of the guidelines.

Address nominations to MCIA Awards, 1900 Hendon Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. The deadline is November 15, 2004. The MCIA Member Relations & Communications Committee will select the recipients.

Fee Changes

Please note the following fee changes:

FINAL FEES

Crop	Fee
Corn	\$0.05/lb
Sunflowers	0.05/lb
Grasses and Small Legumes	0.005/lb
Oats	0.05/bu
Soybeans	0.10/bu
Wheat	0.075/bu

TAGS

Blank tags (all classes)	\$0.015/tag
Printed tags (all classes)	0.025/tag
Eliminate \$15 tag printing charge	

These fee changes are necessary to cover the current cost of conducting the seed certification programs and to fairly distribute costs across crops.

Test Your Carryover Seed

Planning to use carryover seed from 2003? Be sure to send in a sample for a new germination test while you can still get to the bin.

Foundation Seed

Order your Foundation seed for 2005 planting now – the early order deadline is **December 15**.

Contact Craig Thelander at
1-800-510-6242 for more information.

The Minnesota Seed Grower

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Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN 55108.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Minnesota Seed Grower, 1900 Hendon Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Gary M. Beil	President & CEO
Barry Bondhus	Chairman
Steve Helmstetter	Vice Chairman
John Angell	Treasurer
John Lundquist	Secretary
Neal Anderson	Director
Tim Backman	Director
Bev Durgan	Director
Pete Friederichs	Director
Glenn Rivard	Director
Quentin Schultz	Director
Dennis Sjogren	Director

MISSION STATEMENT

MCIA is an organization dedicated to improving the productivity, profitability and the competitive position of MCIA members by providing services to producers, conditioners, and distributors of plant products enabling them to provide high quality plant products to Minnesota, the U.S. and the World.

The Organic Corner

NOP News

The NOSB Compost Tea Task Force Report has been updated and can be seen at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nosb/meetings/CompostTeaTaskForceFinalReport.pdf>

Organic Hotline for Beginning Organic Farmers

Minnesota Organic Farmers' Information Exchange (MOFIE) is a resource hotline for beginning organic farmers in Minnesota. These 21 volunteer advisors have experience in a wide variety of organic production systems including cash grains, livestock and dairy, fruits and vegetables, and even maple syrup. They can answer questions about topics such as proper planting dates, variety selection, fertility, weed and disease control, conservation, marketing, and certification. To keep the volume of calls manageable for these volunteers, they are only able to take questions from Minnesota growers. Minnesotans can get copies of the mentor list online at mofie.coafes.umn.edu or by calling the Southwest Research and Outreach Center at 507-752-7372. This project is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center, (SWROC), with financial support from the United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency Community Outreach and Assistance Program (USDA-RMA).

Sustainable Agriculture Newsletter

The September/October issue of the Sustainable Agriculture newsletter is available on the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture website at: <http://www.misa.umn.edu/sanews/FD2009.html> or by calling MISA at 612-625-8235 or 1-800-909-6472.

This issue features:

- Overview of Sustainable Ag Minor and ways to get involved,
- Internship reports from Sustainable Ag students,
- "Time, Soil & Children" – info. about Beth Waterhouse's new publication,
- Upcoming events, and much more!

Calendar

- November 7-9 ASTA Farm & Lawn Seed Conference, Kansas City, MO
- November 19 MCIA Board of Directors Meeting, St. Paul
- December 8-10 ASTA Corn & Soybean Research Conference, Chicago, IL
- January 11-12 MN Corn Growers Assn. Annual Meeting, Morton, MN
- January 20-21, 2005 ... MCIA Annual Meeting, St. Cloud
- January 21-22, 2005 ... MN Organic and Grazing Conference, St. Cloud

Research Fees on New Releases Announced by NDSU, SDSU

North Dakota State University and South Dakota State University announced the implementation of research fees beginning with new varieties released in 2004. The research fees apply to sales of Registered and Certified seed. Fees for specific varieties will not change and will be in effect for the life of the variety.

NDSU will assess fees of 30 cents per bushel on hard red spring and durum wheat, 25 cents per bushel on barley, 20 cents per bushel on oats and 40 cents per bushel on flax. A 50 cent research fee has been in effect on soybeans for a number of years. SDSU is assessing 30 cents per bushel on spring and winter wheat, 20 cents on oats and 50 cents on soybeans.

New varieties released in 2004 that will carry research fees include:

- Granger and Steele-ND wheat, 30 cents per bushel
- LaMoure soybean, 50 cents per bushel
- Stark naked oat, 20 cents per bushel

–Steve Sebesta, Director, Field Seed Program, North Dakota State Seed Department
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Beil's Spiel

MCIA's Mission Statement says: "MCIA is an organization dedicated to improving the productivity, profitability and competitive position of MCIA members by providing services to producers, conditioners, and distributors of plant products, enabling them to provide high-quality plant products to Minnesota, the United States and the World."

This mission statement has served MCIA well. I keep a copy of the statement posted near my desk, and frequently refer to it during my day-to-day routine. The statement is clear that our primary mission is to provide services to members of MCIA.

Historically, MCIA has had one product, seed certification, which we sold to our members. With this program, MCIA certified that the seed our members produced met MCIA and AOSCA's standards for genetic and physical quality. The seed certification program was a terrific quality assurance program for seed products. At the time the MCIA Mission Statement was written, most of the soybean and small grain seed sold in Minnesota was certified by MCIA. Today, less than 5% of the soybean seed sold is certified, and the percentage of small grain seed that is certified prior to sale has significantly decreased.

As a result, MCIA's business is changing. Recent *Spiels* have described how MCIA is in the process of "reinventing" itself. This reinvention has become necessary as the single product that was the primary business for MCIA is no longer being purchased by our members like it once was. We have been developing new products to market to those who purchase our services. However, many of these new products are not based on certification of a specific product as is the case in seed certification, but rather they are based on the concept of certification of a "process". In a process certification program, MCIA certifies that the required steps in the development of a product are being done according to specified procedures. For example, "ISO type" programs are based on process management, as is organic certification.

As we continue to go through the transition from product certification based programs to more process certification programs, we also see a shift in our customer base. Historically, MCIA has worked directly for its members, who were producing specific certified seed products. Increasingly, we find we are working for companies who need us to verify they are properly performing the process to create a product. MCIA staff members are very aware that this transformation is taking place. We often discuss how we used to have a lot of interaction with members who were seed producers, working with them to certify seed. We also feel it is regrettable that this just does not happen as much any more.

This brings me to a key question. Has MCIA's mission changed? At the present time, I believe that the core mission of MCIA has not changed. We still work for the members of the association, and work hard to help them be more profitable and competitive. At the same time, we have to recognize that our mission is expanding, and as a result, we are now providing services to a broader array of customers than we ever have before. As production agriculture continues to change, MCIA will have to change with it. It is vital that as this transition continues, we carefully evaluate how we can service our members and those who purchase services from us. MCIA is a "Service" organization, and I am certain that the kinds of service-oriented products we offer in the future will look very much different from what they looked like in the past. But ultimately they will have the same purpose; to assist MCIA members in being more profitable and competitive.

-Gary Beil

Board Approves Standards Changes

At its March and June meetings, the MCIA Board of Directors approved the following changes to the MCIA crop standards:

1. Maximum Lot Size for Small Seeded Crops was changed from 22,500 lbs to 55,000 lbs.
2. Perennial Ryegrass Seed Standards - standards, as follow, were established for this crop.

Seed Standards - Perennial Ryegrass Standards for each class

Factor	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Pure seed (minimum)	97.0%	97.0%	97.0%
Total weed seeds (maximum)	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%
Other crop seeds (maximum)	0.2%	1.25%	3.5%
Annual ryegrass (maximum)	0.1%	1.0%	3.0%
Crops other than ryegrass (maximum)	0.1%	0.25%	0.5%
Inert matter (maximum)	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Prohibited weed seeds	None	None	None
Restricted weed seeds (maximum per lb)	None	9	9
Germination (minimum)	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%

3. Wild Rice Seed Certification Standards – a "Registered" seed class was approved for wild rice as well as changes to the standards for the production of the Certified seed class.

In Memorium

Bill Kuntz of Loveland, CO, formerly of Belfield, ND, passed away suddenly Saturday September 25, 2004. He was born on December 16, 1959 in Dickinson, ND to Stanley and Tillie Fisher Kuntz. He served as Director of Field Services for the North Dakota State Seed Department and was currently working for AgriPro Wheat. The US seed industry mourns the loss of such an outstanding individual. He loved to spend time with his family and children, being outdoors, golfing or working in his yard. Bill loved being able to return to the family farm and help his father with the harvest or putting in the crop. He was also active in his community. He is survived by his wife, Shelly, son Christopher, and daughter, Jennifer.

OECD Changes

The following is an excerpt from a notice in the ASTA newsletter. Please note that the procedures for seed companies regarding OECD seed are the same, though the prices have changed. Contact MCIA with any questions, or you may contact the USDA directly for more information (see contact information below):

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will assume the daily administration of the U.S. Program for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes on October 1, 2004. For the past 6 years, the day-to-day operations of the program have been performed by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). Recently, AOSCA requested that AMS assume these responsibilities. AMS looks forward to assuming this role and assisting the seed trade with the marketing of seed internationally.

With the transfer of day-to-day duties from AOSCA to AMS, the seed companies will continue to interact with the state Seed Certifying Agencies in the same capacity as they currently do. The administrative duties will be performed by the USDA, AMS, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch at 801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite C Gastonia, NC 28054. The State Certification Agencies' primary contact for the program is Perry Bohn, who can be reached by phone: 704-810-7262, or via email: perry.bohn@usda.gov. Assessments will be made on the amount of seed tagged for the Program. Seed is considered to be in the OECD Program when tags are issued and the lot is approved by the State Certification Agency. Effective October 1, the following rates will be implemented in order to generate sufficient funds to cover AMS' administrative costs, including the annual payment of approximately \$70,000 to the OECD Secretariat in Paris.

Beet	\$0.11 / cwt
Brassica	\$0.11 / cwt
Cereals	\$0.08 / cwt
Corn	\$0.18 / cwt
Cotton	\$0.06 / cwt
Grasses	\$0.08 / cwt
Legumes	\$0.13 / cwt
Sorghum	\$0.08 / cwt
Soybean	\$0.06 / cwt
Sunflower	\$0.11 / cwt

Additionally, certificates should accompany seed that has been tagged under the OECD program and will be shipped internationally to participating OECD countries.

—Richard R. Payne, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch
Livestock and Seed Program
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The Chairman's View

The combines are starting to roll and autumn is upon us. Fall is a busy season for everyone in agriculture. At this time of year people seem to be working long hours and often working in the dark, so please remember to take extra safety precautions.

Earlier this year a friend of mine sent me a card which said:

"When you want what you've never had, you must do what you've never done." As I read it, I drew parallels not only in my own life, but also in the current situation at MCIA. In an earlier *Grower*, we mentioned the commitment of MCIA to explore and expand new services while still providing high quality traditional services.

Everyone at MCIA has been working diligently to cut costs and make the organization as efficient as possible. I know our staff and board make a strong effort to have a balanced budget. This is imperative to enable us to reach our goals.

Some of the decisions have not been easy, but I feel they have been the best. By late this summer we could see that due to changes in crop rotations in the northern part of the state, revenues were dropping. We made the decision to raise the final certification fees. This was necessary to keep pace with rising costs. We need this to keep our organization viable while moving into the future.

Have a safe and bountiful fall harvest!

—Barry Bondhus

New AOSCA CEO

Chester S. (Chet) Boruff of Moline, Illinois has agreed to serve as the first chief executive officer (CEO) of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies. Chet will assume his new role on November 1 and will establish an AOSCA office in Moline.

Chet is excited about the opportunity to lead AOSCA. He brings to AOSCA a broad perspective on U.S. agriculture, and we are confident that AOSCA members and the organization itself will reap significant benefit from this new partnership.

Minnesota State Fair Certified Seed Show Results

Thank you to all of those who entered this year's MN State Fair. The champion results are as follows:

Champion Oats Sample:

Cunningham Seed Farms, Sleepy Eye, MN

Champion Wheat Sample:

Sawvell Seeds (Rick Ziemke), Clements, MN

Champion Soybean Sample:

Falk Seed Farm (Ron Thorseth), Murdock, MN

Champion Legume or Grass Sample:

Northern MN Bluegrass Growers (Rice Farms), Roseau, MN

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