

MCIA Annual Meeting

The MCIA Board of Directors and Staff invite you to take part in the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association. This year's annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) annual meeting. Each organization will conduct separate meetings and join together for meals and featured speakers. MSGA is a generous sponsor of this year's meeting. The MCIA Annual Meeting will be held January 7th & 8th, 2007 at Jackpot Junction Casino, Morton, MN. Featured speaker will be Gus Schumacher the former Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Registration materials have been mailed, please return A.S.A.P.

If you have any questions please call MCIA at 1-800-510-6242.

Mn/DOT Requires Certified Seed and Mulch

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has established specifications for seed and mulch used for revegetation on Mn/DOT construction projects. These specifications include requiring MCIA certification for mulch and seed products used on project sites.

Mn/DOT specifications require type 3 mulch to consist of clean grain straw certified by MCIA under the Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage and Mulch program. Certification tags must be attached to the bales when delivered to the job site. Mulch producers are surveyed by MCIA twice a year to determine certified mulch availability. The survey results are made available on the MCIA website to allow Mn/DOT contractors to locate sources of certified mulch and to allow Mn/DOT to make determinations of whether to allow substitutions of non-certified products due to unavailability of certified mulch.

Mn/DOT specifications also define a number of different seed mixes made up of native or introduced seed species. Mixture components are chosen for their adaptation to Minnesota's climatic and roadside growing conditions. Native seed components must be Minnesota ecotype (or adjacent counties in neighboring states). Mixtures containing introduced species must contain specified varieties that are adapted to roadside use in this state. To ensure that seed meets origin requirements, Mn/DOT specifications require MCIA source-identified (yellow tag) seed for native seeds or Certified (blue tag) seed for varieties.

Seed used on Mn/DOT projects is acquired through Mn/DOT approved seed vendors that are responsible for assembling seed mixtures and supplying seed to contractors for installation. Approved vendors obtain seed to be used in mixes from seed producers. Mn/DOT is committed to using source-identified native seed on its projects when seed is available. Producers with source-identified seed for sale are urged to notify Mn/DOT or MCIA to ensure that source-identified seed is used when available.

In 2005, Mn/DOT established a working partnership with MCIA to obtain quality assurance support for Mn/DOT's seed and mulch acquisition activities. Under this program, MCIA provides seed vendor oversight, seed and mulch quality verification and training support. The goal of the partnership is to ensure that seed and mulch used on Mn/DOT projects meets their specifications.

For more information on Mn/DOT programs and specifications, please contact Brett Troyer at (651) 284-3746. For information on MCIA's certification programs for seed and mulch, contact Ben Lang (320) 235-5677.

Board Member Nominations

The MCIA Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the MCIA Board of Directors. Regular members of the Association are eligible for nomination. Contact the office if you would like to serve on the Board of Directors or would like to nominate someone. Director nominations are open for District 2, Glenn Rivard, Argyle, MN, and District 7, Tim Backman, Herman, MN. Both are eligible for re-election as their first term is coming to an end. Send nominations to the MCIA office and they will be forwarded to the nomination committee.

Beil's Spiel

“WELLNESS”, “EATING HEALTHY”, “GOOD NUTRITION”, “LO TRANS FATS”, “HIGH IN FIBER”, “ETC. ETC.” Every package or advertisement for food has some kind of indication similar to these about the healthy qualities present in the product. It is what that food industry and production agriculture is all about these days. Everyone is very concerned about the wellness attributes of the foods we eat. You do not have to walk very far down any aisle in your local food market to realize this is how the foods we eat, and the agricultural products we produce, are marketed these days.

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the “SIAL 2006” food exposition. This large international exposition takes place every year under various names, and provides opportunity for nearly every food company in the world to display their products. The exposition is huge—with nearly 250 acres of displays and educational programming. When I entered one of the six exhibition halls, I quickly became aware of the key issue facing food and agricultural producers today. If the product does not contribute to the well being and health of the consumer, it will have a difficult challenge competing in the marketplace. It is clear that this is a global concern of consumers, and will continue into the future.

Among the exciting things happening in MCIA these days is the steady and continued growth of the organic certification program. A significant part of the growth has come from providing organic certification services to organic food processors and handlers. Growth in the organic food sector has experienced a growth rate of about 20% a year in recent years, and projections indicate this growth rate will continue for the foreseeable future. I am often asked whether this growth is just a fad, or will it continue. I think that the demand for food products that are produced under organic regimes is part of the consumers concern for healthy and nutritious food. The 20% current growth rate will be difficult to sustain forever, but it is certain that the demand for organically produced foods is part of an important trend that is very real.

This rapid shift in the demand for healthy foods has had a significant impact on your association. For several years we sensed this trend was coming, and now the market is asking for new programs and supporting services. The demand for agricultural products without some kind of trait identity is decreasing. Likewise, the demand for food and fiber products produced by MCIA members that are properly traced with their healthy attributes identified is growing. The demand to certify that identity is increasing. In fact, it is what MCIA has been doing for nearly 100 years. All of us at MCIA hope you are having a great holiday season and wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

-Gary Beil

The Chairman's View

Optimism is in the air. A new year brings hope for the future and a chance to look back on events that have shaped our lives. There is a whiff of optimism exuding from agriculture. This new outlook primarily comes from the growth potential of bio-fuels and the resulting higher crop prices. Hopefully, our nation continues on the path to energy independence, and with improving technology, agriculture will be a major player in the production of renewable fuels to run our country.

MCIA, also, has an air of optimism about it. The reinvention of MCIA has created a leaner, more diversified, more nimble organization that is structured to adapt quickly to a rapidly changing business environment. With a broader range of skills our staff is well positioned to assist and serve Minnesota producers in the new world economy.

MCIA, for most of its' 100 plus years of existence, functioned as a seed certifying agency. As times changed, corn and soybean variety development came to be dominated by private companies resulting in fewer acres in our certification program and lower revenues.

President Gary Beil, our staff and previous boards along with our current board moved to develop a new strategy. Implementing this has taken time. As it takes time to turn a large ship to a new course, it takes time to move a business onto a new path. That course change is now paying off. The new programs MCIA offers combined with our core seed certification service have made our organization profitable.

My two-year term as Chairman is nearing completion and this is my final “Chairman's View”. I would like to thank Gary Beil and the MCIA staff for their support, hard work and friendship. I am very impressed and proud of the dedicated and talented staff. They have an amazing array of skills and are genuinely focused on the success of MCIA and its' members. I would also like to thank the MCIA membership for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the board.

- Stevan Helmstetter

Organic Corner

MCIA Organic Services Committee Meeting

The MCIA Organic Services Committee will be meeting on January 19 at noon during the 2007 Minnesota Organic Conference and Trade Show at the St. Cloud Civic Center. The purpose of MCIA's Organic Services Committee is to monitor and review the development of the MCIA Organic Certification Program and to make recommendations about the implementation of the program. These committee meetings are open to all MCIA members and guests. If you would like to attend, please contact Anne at the MCIA office.

Calendar Items

January 19-20, 2007 - Minnesota Organic Conference and Trade Show, St. Cloud Civic Center, St. Cloud, MN. If you would like to register for the 2007 Minnesota Organic Conference and Trade Show, please contact Anne at the MCIA office for a brochure or visit <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/esap/organic/2007confinforeg.pdf>.

February 6-7, 2007- Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference & Trade Show, St. Cloud Civic Center, St. Cloud, MN. Contact the MN Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association at 763-434-0400 or visit http://www.mfvga.org/education_umrgvvc.shtml for more information.

February 9-10, 2007- NPSAS 28th Annual Winter Conference, Ramkota Inn, Aberdeen, SD. Visit <http://www.npsas.org/events.html> for more information.

February 22-24, 2007-Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference, LaCrosse Center, La Crosse, WI. More information can be found at <http://www.mosesorganic.org/umofc/intro07.htm>.

- Anne Costello

Statement of Activities & Financial Position For the Year Ended May 31, 2006

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	<u>Total</u>
<u>Revenues</u>	
Fees	\$1,136,643
Seed Sales	431,848
Grant Income	89,520
Royalties & Other Income	<u>113,013</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	1,771,024
<u>Expenses</u>	
Program	1,005,747
Supplies/Maintenance	100,770
Insurance, Prof. Services, Payroll Taxes	275,024
Seed Cost	189,479
Grant Expense	107,042
Miscellaneous	<u>8,560</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,686,622
Increase in Net Assets	84,402
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>681,547</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	\$765,949

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
<u>Assets</u>	
Cash	126,320
Accounts Receivable	153,549
Accrued Interest Receivable	1,017
Inventories	32,931
Prepaid Expenses	14,017
Investments	829,987
Equipment	482,588
Less:Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(414,729)</u>
Net Equipment	67,859
Software Development	<u>2,748</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	1,228,428

Liabilities & Net Assets

<u>Liabilities</u>	
Note Payable - Bank	39,028
Note Payable - Auto	52,730
Accounts Payable	28,230
Royalty & VDF Fees Payable	214,193
Accrued Salaries & Vacation	<u>128,298</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	462,479
Net Assets:	<u>765,949</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	1,228,428

If you would like a copy of the audited financial report, contact the MCIA office.

Seed Notes

Foundation Oklee Available

Oklee wheat was not listed on the information and order forms mailed to members earlier. Members ordering Foundation Seed should send in their request as soon as possible. Varieties released in 2006 include **Ada, Howard and Traverse wheat**, and **MN0101 soybeans**.

New Soybeans Released

MCIA will distribute two new conventional soybeans in 2007. MN1410 is a high yielding 1.4 maturity variety with above average protein. Data for MN1410 can be found in the Minnesota Varietal Trials. MN1011CN is 0.9 maturity cyst nematode variety with a clear hilum. Anyone interested in seed of these two varieties can request it.

Mini Tote, Bulk Totes, Bulk Bags

Whatever you call them bulk bags have become a common method for handling seed. Often times they are used more than once. It is important to make sure these bags are clean and free of any contaminants. Check each bag before refilling to insure that your customer is getting only pure quality seed.

Minnesota Varietal Trials

The 2007 Minnesota Varietal Trials results are available online at www.maes.edu. A copy will be mailed to MCIA members.

In Memoriam

Carleton Hanson age 91 of Golden Valley MN passed away 9/14/06. Carl worked in the MCIA seed laboratory for many years after retiring from the USDA Seed Lab in Minneapolis. He was a graduate of the West Central School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota. Carl is survived by his wife Amy and seven children.

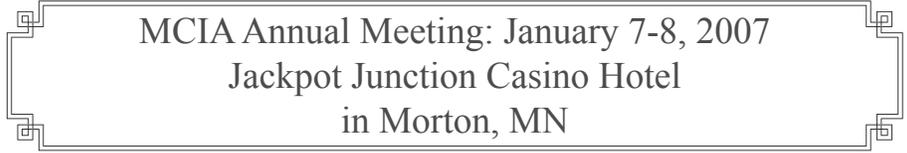
The Minnesota Seed Grower

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

- Gary M. Beil President & CEO
- Steve Helmstetter Chairman
- Dennis Sjogren Vice Chairman
- Neal Anderson Treasurer
- John Lundquist Secretary
- Tim Backman Director
- Nancy Ehlke Director
- Pete Friederichs Director
- Mary Hanks Director
- James Hunzeker Director
- Glenn Rivard Director
- Cal Spronk 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.



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PERIODICAL

MCIA Annual Meeting
 January 7th and 8th, 2007
 Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel
 Morton, Minnesota

Reserve your hotel room by calling, 1-800-946-2274.

The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association are generous sponsors of this years meeting. The registration fee is only \$35.00 per person. Registration and program information was mailed last week. We hope to see you there!

- Committee Meetings - The following committees will meet:
 - Agronomic Standards - 4:00 pm, Sunday
 - Foundation Seed - 4:00 pm, Sunday
 - Legislative and Public Affairs - 7:30 am, Monday

All members are invited to attend Committee Meetings.

Calendar

- January 1, 2007MCIA Office Closed
- January 7-8, 2007MCIA Annual Meeting, Morton, MN
- January 7-8, 2007MN Soybean Growers Assn. Annual Meeting, Morton, MN
- January 19-20, 2007MN Organic and Grazing Conference, St. Cloud, MN

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Call For Resolutions

A draft of any resolution that is to be considered by the MCIA Legislative and Public Affairs Committee should be sent to the MCIA office by December 26, 2006