

The Achievement in Crop Improvement Award goes to...Myron Behm!



Myron Behm of Atwater, Minnesota received the "Achievement in Crop Improvement Award" for his exemplary service to the seed industry. The award was presented in January at the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) annual meeting at Jackpot Junction in Morton, Minnesota. The award, presented annually since 1972, recognizes individuals who are dedicated to the seed industry, active in the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association and support their local community. The Achievement in Crop Improvement Award is sponsored by the Farm Progress Companies, publisher of "The Farmer" magazine. Paula Mohr, editor of The Farmer, presented the award.

Myron joined his brother Gordon in 1978 and took over the seed business started by their father Marvin in 1951. A seed conditioning plant was built in 1981. They have produced and sold certified seed for many years. The business also handled contract soybean seed production, food grade soybeans for export, and custom conditioning for other growers.

Myron served six years on the MCIA Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Board. He served on various MCIA committees and was president of the Kandiyohi County Crop Improvement organization. In 1989 he received the Premier Seedsman Award.

He has been involved in many organizations within his community and surrounding area. Myron is an active member of his local church, currently serving as chairman of the Board of Trustees and has served as treasurer over ten years. He currently is a member of the Kandiyohi County Agribusiness/Renewable Energy Development Committee. In 2005, he traveled with Governor Tim Pawlenty on a trade mission to China.

Myron and his wife Myra have three children and two grandchildren.

Field Inspection Application Deadline and Corn Isolation Changes

The application due date for small grains and soybeans will be earlier this year. The change was approved by the MCIA Board of Directors at their March meeting. This will allow the applications to be processed and distributed to field inspectors in a more timely manner.

- The new due date for small grain applications is **June 7**.
- The deadline for soybean application will move to **July 15**.

Field inspection applications and additional information will be mailed to members in May. The instructions and application for field inspection can be found online at www.mncia.org. You can complete the application, print it off and return it to MCIA with the payment and seed source.

Corn Isolation Standards were also changed. For more information contact the MCIA office at 1-800-510-6242 or visit www.mncia.org.

MCIA Annual Meeting

The 2007 MCIA Annual meeting held in conjunction with the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association was a first for the two organizations. The cooperative effort allowed the two organizations to conduct separate business activities but share featured speakers and meal arrangements. During the Sunday evening program MCIA welcomed directors and guests from the Minnesota Soybean and Wheat Growers Associations. The evening concluded with a presentation by Dr. Jim Orf on his recent visit to China and the local talent of the Redwood Valley High School Steel Drum Band.

Monday's program was filled with a variety of topics including a lecture entitled "Biofuels: Implications for Grain and Livestock Production," by Dr. Vernon Eidman. Craig Damstrom gave an update on the North Star Rail Intermodal, a University of Minnesota Report was shared by Dr. Forrest Izzuno, and an update was given on the Cenex Harvest States-Low Linolenic Soybean program by Rick Steinberg. The business meeting of MCIA was also conducted, the minutes of the business meeting are included in this issue.

Ambassador Christopher Goldthwait, former US Ambassador to Chad, and Principle Author of "Modernizing America's Food and Farm Policy: Vision for a new Direction" was the keynote speaker during the luncheon. His topic was titled "The New Farm Bill and the Future of US Agriculture."

We had a good turnout of members and enjoyed the opportunity to meet concurrently with the Soybean Growers Association. We appreciate all the speakers who took time to meet with our organization. A big thank you as well to the sponsors and exhibitors who helped make our annual meeting a success. We also thank all of you who attended and look forward to seeing you next year.

MCIA Presents Premier & Honorary Premier Seedsman Awards

The Premier Seedsman Award has been presented annually since 1929 to recognize individuals or partners active in quality seed production, involved in the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, and who provide excellent service to the seed industry. The Honorary Premier Seedsman Award presented annually since 1930 recognizes individuals not directly involved in the seed industry but who have actively supported the seed industry, the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, and their local community. At this year’s annual meeting held at Jackpot Junction in Morton, MN three individuals were recognized. Premier Seedsman recognition was given to Leo Roth and Tony Ziller, while Ross Rehder was named Honorary Premier Seedman.

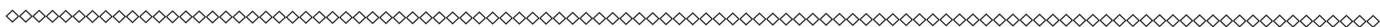
Leo Roth grew up on a small farm near Portsmouth, Ohio. He attended Ohio State University, obtained a Masters degree from the University of Minnesota, and a PhD in Agronomy & Plant Breeding from the University of Nebraska in 1971.

Leo began his career in the seed industry working for Garst/Thomas Seed Company, working with corn seed production in Nebraska and Kansas. Leo accepted the Plant Manager position for Stauffer Seeds in Madison, Wisconsin in 1982, and eventually he became the National Operations Manager for six Stauffer production plants.

He continued his career working with corn and soybean research plots and parent seed production at Mike Brayton Seeds in Ames, IA. Leo returned to Minnesota in 1994 as the Soybean Seed Production Manager for Ramy Seed as well as the Plant Manager of Prairie Gold Seeds, Mapleton, MN. He has conditioned seed of soybean and small grains, organic seed and grain and seed grain for food use.

A member of MCIA since 1994 and Leo has been a great resource in discussions about organic industry trends and the future of the identity preserved grain industry. He is a member of the Agronomy and Crop Science Society and is very active in his Mankato church.

Leo retired at the end of January. He and his wife, Linda, have been married for 31 years. They have three daughters. Leo enjoys gardening and fishing and after retirement, he hopes to find a job that will support his fishing habit. Congratulations to Leo on being recognized as a Premier Seedsman!



Tony Ziller has spent his entire life in the seed business growing up near Bird Island, Minnesota. Tony’s father, A.A. Ziller, started producing and selling seed in 1936. In 1965, after attending South Dakota State University, Tony joined his father in the business, producing oats, flax, barley, soybean and wheat seed. In 1977, he began producing and marketing the private Ziller brand soybean varieties.

Tony and his son, Jeff, who joined the business in 1989, own Ziller Seed Company located not near Bird Island. They produce and process Ziller brand soybeans that are marketed through a dealer network in Minnesota and Eastern South Dakota. Ziller Seed Company’s research program includes replicated trials of thousands of soybean lines each year. They also produce and market certified seed of AgriPro wheat varieties.

Tony has been a member of MCIA for 41 years and has served on several MCIA committees. Ziller Seed Company is a member of the American Seed Trade Association. Tony serves as chairman of the St. Mary’s Church Council, he is a member the Board of Directors of the State Bank of Bird Island, and is a supervisor on the local township board.

Tony and his wife, Bernadette, have been married for 41 years and have three children and ten grandchildren. Congratulations to Tony a Premier Seedsman!



Ross Rehder is someone many of you know through his work with the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association where he actively promotes the use of soybeans by “manning the booth” at various trade shows and conventions. His active support of agriculture and the certified seed industry over many years earned him the Honorary Premier Seedsman award.

Ross grew up near Barnesville, Minnesota and attended the North Dakota School of Science where he received a degree in Diesel Mechanics and Farm Management. Ross began farming in 1966 working with Lynn Anderson, a past MCIA member. While farming, Ross was very involved in the production of Registered and Certified oat seed. He also raised certified soybean seed and produced alfalfa and wheat on his 500 acre farm. His son, Paul, took over the family farm in 2001 and he continues to raise certified oats.

Throughout his life Ross has been very involved in Clay County activities. He served on the Clay County Fair Board for 35 years. He was Superintendent of the Crop Division and set up displays as well as delivered the champion samples to the State Fair. Ross was active in the Clay County Crop Improvement organization working with research plots and promoting certified seed. He served eight years on the Clay County Extension Service Committee and currently is a member of the Minnesota Farmers Union.

A highlight for Ross every summer was attending the Minnesota State Fair with his family. Ross exhibited oat and soybean samples for more than 20 years. He eventually instilled the love of the fair in his three boys, Jay, Aaron and Paul, and soon they were taking their projects to the State Fair. Ross is currently semi-retired, working part-time for the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association and working with his son on the family farm. Congratulations Ross!

Beil's Spiel

(Note, this issues' Spiel is a summary of Dr. Beil's President Report at the MCIA annual meeting, January 7 & 8, 2007.)

This meeting is the 104th time this association has gathered together in January to conduct the necessary business of the association. Each year we have met to hear reports on the financial status of the association, review current program offerings and contemplate what the future may hold. In addition to these necessary and legal discussions as provided by the association's by-laws, the MCIA annual meeting has become an important event for many MCIA members for other reasons. Long time friendships are renewed, new friends are discovered, and many business discussions take place.

This is the 12th annual meeting that I have had the privilege and opportunity to meet with you and discuss how the association is doing. During these 12 years, some reports have been of good years and some not so great. In spite of the challenges we have reported to you from time to time, each meeting has focused on hope and high expectations for the future. Certainly, there has been one constant during those 12 years, one that most likely has been present throughout the entire 104 times our association has met together, the environment in which we all do business keeps changing.

As we prepared for this meeting, I have been thinking about the 12 years I have been here, and tried to identify the single biggest change we have seen in MCIA. There has been a lot to choose from:

- Certainly the impact of Roundup Ready and other bioengineered events has greatly impacted the demand for our core product—seed certification. As a result, we have had to learn how to survive and use what we know about our business to respond with programs and services our members need. This has entailed new programs and approaches.
- The expansion of our services from “product” based to “process” based quality assurance programs has been equally dramatic. This meant we needed to become proficient with the use of ISO type programs and opened the door for us to enter the organic certification business.
- We have had to cope with the continued decline in demand for what historically has been our primary revenue source—conventional seed certification services.

These changes have significantly impacted the way we do business. However, I believe the most dramatic change for your association and its programs has been the realization that we are now in the food business, and not just in the seed business. Perhaps the kinds of changes described above have driven us to the understanding that we are now firmly entrenched in the food business. In any case, the change transition did not just happen overnight; it was gradual and compelling.

As our understanding of what was happening to us grew, it became clear MCIA had to go through what we call a “reinvention” process if we were to continue to meet the needs of our members. We had to discover how we could build on our strengths and core competencies developed over 100 years of service to meet the needs of members and customers. We had to look at the years of doing things right and make the services we offer “more right” by applying them to the broader array of services required by our members and customers. Our mission continued to be focused on making our members and customers more competitive, productive, and profitable in today's agro-food business environment.

As we proceeded with the reinvention process, four core business opportunities were identified as being vital to MCIA for it to continue to succeed in fulfilling its mission:

- Seed Certification
- Organic Certification
- Contracted Quality Assurance Services
- Technology Marketing (TMS)

None of these four areas of business activity are unique to MCIA historic service offerings. We have been marketing these kinds of services throughout most of our 104 years of existence. What is important is that we understand them in the context of today's agro-food environment that our members and customers do business in every day.

I can guarantee you that change will continue to impact your association. MCIA is positioned to respond to these changes as new opportunities emerge. It is assured that the food industry will continue to change, there will be new ways to create and develop sustainable energy resources, and new technology will continue to be available to production agriculture. MCIA is ready to respond to those changes.

In 2007 we will lose 2 long time and loyal MCIA employees to retirement. Jerry Hermann has announced his plans to retire later this spring, and Paul Mickelson is planning his retirement after the completion of field inspection this fall. We will miss working with Jerry and Paul and wish them well in retirement.

2006 was a great year for MCIA and we look forward to 2007 with great expectation. Let us know how we can help you meet the challenges of today's agro-food business environment.

-Gary Beil, President/CEO

Official Minutes of the 2007 MCIA Annual Business Meeting

Chairman Stevan Helmstetter called the 104th annual meeting of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association to order at 9:35 a.m. on Monday, January 8, 2007 at Jackpot Junction, Morton, MN. Helmstetter confirmed that proper proof of notice of the meeting had been published in the winter issue of the Minnesota Seed Grower and determined that a quorum was present. Helmstetter introduced the MCIA Board of Directors to the membership and appointed Dr. Gary Beil as the Parliamentarian for the meeting. Beil was called upon to introduce the MCIA staff members present at the meeting.

The following reports were then given:

- Secretary's Report and Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting — Howard Dahlager moved, seconded by Ken Schuster that the minutes, as published in the Spring 2006 issue of the Minnesota Seed Grower, be approved. Minutes were approved.
- Treasurer's Report – Helmstetter indicated the report had been published in the Winter 2006 Minnesota Seed Grower and that a copy was included in the meeting registration packet. The board accepted the report at its November 2006 meeting.
- Chairman's Report – Helmstetter indicated that in the past MCIA basically had two tasks to perform, increasing Foundation seedstocks and assuring quality standards for seed production. In MCIA's reinvention process, it was determined that the following areas will be the main focus moving forward: maximize certification acres; expand the organic program; continue technology marketing services for the University of Minnesota; and market contract auditing systems. MCIA will continue to adapt and evolve with the continual changes in agriculture.
- Nominating Committee Report – Helmstetter presented the slate of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee chaired by John Lundquist, Wheaton, MN and called for nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, John Lundquist moved candidates be elected with unanimous ballot, seconded by Mac Ehrhardt. Motion passed. Tim Backman, Herman, MN was reelected District 4 director, and Glenn Rivard, Argyle, MN was reelected District 2 director. John Lundquist moved to accept the University of Minnesota's appointment of Nancy Ehlke for the Category B position representing the University of Minnesota. Charles Lund seconded. Motion carried.
- Legislative Committee Report – Two resolutions were brought forward from the Legislative Committee. Geir Friisoe, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, presented the following resolutions:

Resolution in Support of Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Laboratory Initiative

Whereas; Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) recognizes the need for effective MDA laboratory programs and services to meet the needs of Minnesota agricultural producers, and

Whereas; MDA plays a critical role in regulating both agricultural imports and exports through a series of audits and sampling mechanisms, and

Whereas; MDA's inspection and certification protect Minnesota products from unwanted and harmful pest infestations that could be catastrophic to the rural economies.. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that MCIA supports the allocation of appropriate funding for the MDA's proposed Laboratory Initiative.

Resolution in Support of MDA's Invasive Species Initiative.

Whereas; MCIA recognizes the importance of identifying and monitoring invasive threats to Minnesota agricultural products, and

Whereas; MDA has a critical task in protecting the Minnesota agricultural industry from threatening newly invasive species. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that MCIA is in support of the allocation of appropriate funds for a robust invasive species survey and inspection program for invasive pests, and be it further

Resolved, that MDA should continue to augment integrated pest management strategies including implementing specific biological control strategies for species that have invaded Minnesota's ecological systems.

Mac Ehrhardt moved to accept both resolutions, seconded by Eugene Hook. Motion passed.

- University of Minnesota Update – The University of Minnesota Update was presented by Dr. Forrest Izuno, Head of the Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca. Dr. Izuno indicated that the philosophies at the U of MN are changing. The areas that will need the most emphasis moving forward are: food production; renewable energy and bioproducts; environment; nutraceuticals; and public engagement.
- President's Report - Chairman Helmstetter then called upon Dr. Gary Beil to give his President's Report. Dr. Beil indicated that through the reinvention process MCIA is looking ahead to continue supporting its membership. He noted that changes in agriculture are continual and accelerating. MCIA continues to expand its programs to support changes such as switching from product-based to process-based programs and from seed to food business.
- Staff Reports – The following staff gave the following updates: Kris Folland – Seed Certification, Anne Costello – Organic Program, Ben Lang – Contracted Services and Roger Wippler – Technology Marketing Services.

Chairman Helmstetter then called for other business. There being no other business brought to the floor he declared the meeting adjourned.

The Chairman's View

As I look out at 15" to 18" of new snow it does not seem that spring is drawing nearer but it is, and it will again be here before we know it, or are ready for it! It has been a great winter to get plans made and things done for the upcoming planting season. With prices improving, the prospects for 2007 look great.

It has also been a busy winter for MCIA, planning for the New Year ahead. As we start 2007 I can't help but think of our past board meetings and annual meetings where we heard the phrase "Reinventing MCIA" for the future. At first some may think of it as only a catchy phrase. As a board member and association member, I see it as much more than that.

I believe MCIA has changed dramatically in what MCIA is doing, how MCIA is doing it, and the customers MCIA is working for. We still maintain our core areas of business but are expanding in many new and exciting areas, to meet the needs of what I would term non-traditional customers, with new and different programs than MCIA has offered in the past.

Your staff and management is continuing to do an excellent job of identifying new opportunities in food safety issues, process verification, and many other new areas of expansion, while still maintaining the core areas of business that have made, and will continue to make MCIA one of the premier certifying agencies in the U.S.

We all know change is inevitable. What continues to amaze me is the rate at which change continues to occur, and how well your staff and management of MCIA continues to address those changes.

I would urge you to get informed on the changes within MCIA and what it has to offer you and your operation for 2007.

Have a prosperous and successful 2007!

-Tim Backman

Revised Certification Standards

The MCIA Board of Directors met on March 23, 2007 and approved several changes to the MCIA Agronomic Certification Standards. Changes have been made to the following areas:

- Field inspection application due dates
- Variety eligibility requirements
- Definitions
- Seed sampling and testing
- Blending of seed lots
- Corn isolation standards
- Field Bean standards

The changes will be in affect for the 2007 crop year. Visit the MCIA website www.mncia.org or contact the MCIA office at 1-800-510-6242 for more information.

MCIA to Host 2007 Northern Region AOSCA Meeting

The Northern Region meeting of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) will be held April 18-20th in Bloomington, MN. MCIA will host this annual meeting which brings together certification agencies from across the upper United States. Representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin will join MCIA staff members to discuss issues related to seed certification, field inspection, Foundation seed and other AOSCA programs.

Board Election Results

Glenn Rivard, Argyle, MN, District 2 and Tim Backman, Herman, MN, District 7 were re-elected to the MCIA Board of Directors. Nancy Ehlke, U of M and John Lundquist also retained their board positions. MCIA Board Officers were elected as follows:

- Tim Backman Chairman
- Dennis Sjogren Vice Chairman
- Neal Anderson Treasurer
- John Lundquist Secretary

Important Links

The following links may help you find the information you need to know.

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA): www.mncia.org

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Federal Seed Act: http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/seed/seed_pub.htm#Regulations

Plant Variety Protection Office (PVP): <http://www.ams.usda.gov/science/pvpo/CertificatesDB.htm>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/MinnesotaSeedLaw>:
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/appd/seeds/fsmsrp.html>

North Central Seed Conference

The Northern Seed Trade Association is having their 4th annual North Central Seed Conference. The conference will be held in Mandan, ND at the Best Western Seven Seas Inn & Conference Center on August 1, 2, and 3.

If you have any questions, or would like to register please contact Claudia Osterman at 651-451-2340.

MN State Fair Certified Seed Show

Save your Certified seed samples! MCIA annually supports the MN State Fair Certified Seed Show. Those interested in participating can find an Ag-Hort-Bee Rules & Premiums booklet at <http://www.mnstatefair.org>.

Foundation Seed News

New Varieties Released

The University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station released three new varieties in 2007. These varieties are being distributed by the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) Foundation seed program. A variety development fee will be assessed on seed sold. The new varieties include RB07(MN99436-6) spring wheat, MN1410 and MN1011CN soybeans.

RB07(MN99436-6) Spring Wheat

RB07 tested as MN99436-6 is an early semi-dwarf hard red spring wheat developed by the University of Minnesota. RB07 has shown the best tolerance to fusarium of any recent University of Minnesota releases. The heading date of RB07 is similar to Oxen. It is average height with moderately strong straw. In testing, RB07 has consistently been above average in grain yield in both northern and southern locations. It has above average protein and average test weight. RB07 is resistant to stem rust, resistant to prevalent races of leaf rust and moderately resistance to other leaf diseases. RB07 is resistant to pre-harvest sprouting with good falling numbers and medium high baking qualities. It is a variety with excellent yield, good disease tolerance and high quality.

MN1410 Soybean

MN1410 soybean is a 1.4 maturity conventional variety. It has shown excellent yield performance. MN1410 carries the Rps1k gene for phytophthora resistance and has good iron chlorosis tolerance. It has average height and good lodging resistance. It has above average protein content, average oil content, white flowers, grey pubescence and a buff hilum. Developed through conventional breeding methods MN1410 is an excellent choice for producers seeking a non-gmo variety. Seed is available as Foundation, Registered or Certified, contact MCIA for more information on availability.

MN1011CN Soybean

MN1011CN soybean is a 1.0 maturity conventional soybean line with cyst nematode resistance. It has excellent yield in cyst nematode locations and very good yield potential overall. It is similar in maturity and slightly taller than Surge. MN1011CN has good iron chlorosis tolerance and carries the Rps1 gene for phytophthora resistance. This variety has a yellow hilum and good protein content. It is an excellent choice for an early season, cyst nematode variety. There is a limited amount of Foundation seed available for distribution in 2007.

MN1410 and MN1011CN soybeans are available for licensing either through Certification or for brand labeling; anyone interested in these varieties should contact Roger Wippler at the MCIA office.

****Foundation seed orders are still being accepted. Most varieties of wheat, barley, oats and soybeans are still available. Orders are filled on a first come first serve basis. For more information please contact the office.**

Field Inspections are just around the corner...

"Jody says..."

As you wrap up seed conditioning and testing here are a few items to keep in mind:

1. Send in samples as soon as possible so you have test results for seed you are distributing
2. Always tag or issue bulk certificates for seed you distribute
3. Be sure any Registered seed you intend to use as a seed source has passed final certification
4. Keep accurate records of any seed you carry over into 2008.

When preparing for planting and field inspection remember these items:

1. Save your proof of seed source, (tags or bulk certificates) for certified seed, IP grain, QA and native seed.
2. New variety? - If you are applying for field inspection of a new variety we need a complete description. Appropriate forms can be found online or by contacting the office. Descriptions are due at the same time as the applications.
3. Sign your application, include payment, and seed source.

Application Deadlines:

- June 7 - for small grains, forage & mulch, and other crops requiring multiple inspections.
- July 15 - for soybeans requiring only one inspection
- July 31 - for native grasses planted before July 1

Your MCIA field supervisor or office staff would be glad to answer your questions.

-Jody Prudhomme

Organic Corner

Producer Applications for Organic Certification

If you wish to become a certified organic producer or if you are a certified producer who needs to renew your certification, the deadline to submit your application is June 1. Contact Anne at the MCIA office for more information or to request an application packet.

From the Federal Register

The NOP has published a proposed rule that would amend the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. All substances listed on the National List must be reviewed every 5 years to determine whether their listing should continue. If substances are not renewed after 5 years, their authorized use or prohibition expires.

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) has recommended that 166 of the 169 substances included in the National List be renewed. Three substances were voted by the NOSB not to be renewed: nonorganic milk replacers allowed for use in livestock production, colors from nonsynthetic sources allowed for use in or on “organic” or “made with organic” products, and “potassium tartrate made from tartaric acid” allowed for use in or on “organic” or “made with organic” products.

Comments on this proposed rule must be received by May 7, 2007. The proposed rule can be found at: http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Newsroom/FedRegNOPSunsetReview03_06_07.pdf

National Organic Standards Board Meeting

The National Organic Standards Board will meet in Washington, DC on March 27-29. To view the NOSB meeting agenda, go to: http://www.ams.usda.gov/nosb/meetings/03_07agenda.html The NOSB is seeking public comments on proposed recommendations.

- Anne Costello

Central Minnesota Organic Workshop

A chance to learn the ABC's of Organics and about Organic Agriculture Opportunities is a workshop to be held at the Meeker County Courthouse in Litchfield, MN from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Friday, April 13th. Speakers will be Jim, Riddle, Meg Moynihan, Craig Sheaffer, David Nicolai, and Nathan Winter along with input from local organic producers.

Jim Riddle is the University of Minnesota Organic Outreach Coordinator working out of the Southwest Research and Outreach Center near Lamberton, MN. His topic is titled “ABC's of Organics” and will include rules and regulations to follow when getting started in organic agriculture.

Meg Moynihan, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, will address “Minnesota Organic Agriculture Snapshot”, while Craig Sheaffer, U of MN Department of Agronomy & Plant Genetics, covers “Minimizing Risk in Organic Crop Production”. David Nicolai, Regional Extension Educator will discuss “Using Weed Characteristics to Your Advantage for Control” and Nathan Winter will present on “Using Caution When Harvesting & Feeding Ditch Hay and Composting Manure”. The workshop will end with question and answer session and comments from local organic producers describing their experiences.

There is a \$10 registration fee, which includes lunch with a pre-registration deadline of Wednesday, April 11th. Mail registrations to the Meeker County Extension Office located at 114 N. Holcombe Ave., Litchfield, MN 55355 or call (320) 693-5275 to register by phone. The flyer is listed on the Meeker County Extension Website at www.extension.umn.edu, click on Extension Offices and select Meeker. The flyer should be found under the Hot Topics section.

The Central Minnesota Organic Workshop is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center, University of Minnesota Extension, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Be sure to attend the workshop if you are an organic farmer or are looking at transitioning your farm into organic production.

- Nathan Winter - U of M Extension Educator

The Minnesota Seed Grower

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

Gary M. Beil President & CEO
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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.



MCIA would like to thank the following Annual Meeting Sponsors & Exhibitors:

Agri-Pro Wheat, Bratney Companies, Greif, Inc., and the
MN Soybean Growers Association

Thanks for your support!

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PERIODICAL

Part-time Field Inspector Positions Open

MCIA has openings for part-time field inspectors for the summer and fall of 2007. Positions are open in several areas of Minnesota. More information and an application form can be found at: http://www.mncia.org/about_staff.html#positionsavailable or by calling the office at 1-800-510-6242.

Calendar

- April 6** - MCIA office closed
- April 18-20** - AOSCA Northern Region mtg, Bloomington, MN
- May 28** - MCIA office closed
- June 1** - Organic producer applications due
- June 7** - **Field inspection applications due for small grains, forage & mulch, and other crops requiring multiple inspections**
- June 15** - New variety descriptions due for small grain, corn, sunflowers, and soybeans requiring multiple inspections
- June 21-22** - MCIA Board meeting, Granite Falls, MN
- July 15** - **Field inspection applications due for soybeans requiring only one inspection**
- July 31** - Field inspection applications due for perennials and native grasses planted before July 1
- August 1** - New variety descriptions due for soybeans, IP Grain, QA and pre-harvest only inspections
- August 1-3** - North Central Seed Conference, Mandan, ND
- November 1** - Field inspection applications due for perennials and native grasses planted after July 1
- November 16** - MCIA Board meeting, St. Paul, MN

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Did your Address Change?

Remember to tell us your new contact information!

1900 Hendon Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

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