

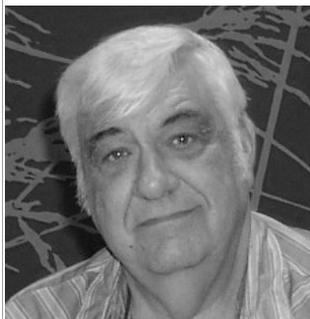
MCIA Announces the Japan Positive List Compliance Program

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, in partnership with the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) and the TRAC© consortium, announces the release of a new service and label for companies exporting products to Japan.

The Japan Positive List Compliance Program is designed to provide buyers with assurance that labeled products conform to the current Japan Positive List limits for chemical residue in agricultural commodities. The program provides a means to monitor grain production processes from planting through conditioning and packaging for shipment to Japan.

The service brings third-party oversight to validate grower training, chemical applications, and field histories, and then tracks the product from seed to final shipping container. Residue testing is focused on the most current Japanese Positive List requirements for chemical residues. Products meeting the standards will be eligible to be labeled with the AOSCA IP logo. For more details, contact Jim Boots, Manager, Special Services at 507-644-3093 or email jim.boots@mncia.org.

Congratulations Jerry Hermann!



After nearly 40 years with MCIA, Jerry Hermann retired on April 30th. Jerry has been a field supervisor in Northwest Minnesota since 1976. A graduate of the Seed Grain Technology program at Detroit Lakes Technical College he began work in the MCIA Seed Laboratory in 1968. After 5 years in the seed lab, Jerry spent 3 years with the Foundation seed

program. He returned home to Georgetown to serve as a field supervisor for the last 30 years.

Over the years, Jerry's travels for field inspection ranged all across Minnesota; east to Pine and St. Louis counties, all along the western Minnesota border counties, south to the Iowa border and north to Roseau and Lake of the Woods. He has inspected many different seed crops, including perennials, such as timothy and Kentucky bluegrass, thousands of acres of wheat, barley and soybeans and more unique crops, such as flat peas, wild rice and chickling vetch. He also inspected native forbes and grasses as well as stands of trees for seed collection. (Continued on page 2)

2007 Field Inspection Season

Field inspection season is underway! Whether you are applying for Seed Certification, Quality Assurance, Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage & Mulch or any of our other programs, please review the information below.

At a Glance: Application Deadlines

- July 15..... Soybeans requiring only one inspection
- July 31..... Native grasses planted before July 1
- November 1..... Native grasses planted after July 1

Tips for Field Inspection Applications

Field Inspection Applications were sent out in mid-May. If you have not received them or need extras, call the office or find them online at www.mncia.org. Please take a moment after filling out your application to make sure all the required information is included. Incomplete applications are not processed until all the necessary information is gathered.

- Note the due date for your application (see above)
- New Variety? - be sure to include a description
- Include a proof of seed source (tags or bulk sales certificate)
- Include payment with your application
- Include the date planted for every field
- Remember to sign your application

Field Supervisor Contact Information Got a question about your inspection?

Jim Boots - jim.boots@mncia.org
Phone: 507-644-3093
Cell: 507-420-5867

Kris Folland - kfolland@wiktel.com
Phone: 218-265-2614
Cell: 218-791-2156

Ben Lang - bjlang@willmar.com
Phone: 320-235-5677
Cell: 320-905-1872

Brenda Rogers - brenda.rogers@mncia.org
Phone: 218-342-2747
Cell: 218-841-9964

Jerry Hermann Retires- Continued from page 1.

You see many different things during a career traveling the state and inspecting fields. Whether it was vehicles, wild animals, field locations or other unusual experiences, Jerry could write a book on the interesting tales of field inspection.

Jerry was one of the first MCIA staff members to utilize a computer. He enjoyed keeping up with the changing technology and utilized computers to enhance and create efficiencies in MCIA programs. After becoming field supervisor he implemented a training program for field inspectors, often creating real live field situations on his home farm. More recently he returned to the MCIA lab to work purity samples during busy winter months.

Jerry and his wife Linda have 3 grown children, Michelle lives in Minot, ND and sons Dan and Phillip live in the Fargo/Moorhead area. They also enjoy spending time with their two grandchildren. They have a large garden where Jerry plans to spend more time producing onions, peanuts, sweet potatoes and a variety of other vegetables. He also hopes to take the kids fishing this summer. Jerry will also keep busy helping the neighbors on the farm and doing some part-time work for MCIA.

Jerry enjoyed the opportunity to travel around the state and meet with many MCIA members over the years. "I really enjoyed visiting with the members each year" Jerry said recently. "I have many fond memories of MCIA and the people I have worked with over the years."

He will miss the many people he has met while working at MCIA but he won't miss riding a mini-bike across a rain soaked grass field, mile long walks on a hot humid July day through a lodged grain field or inspecting a bee buzzing pollen filled sunflower field. We will miss Jerry's experience and insight and we wish him the very best in his retirement.

Chairman's View

Another quarter has gone by and once again it is time for another edition of the MCIA Seed Grower. Your board and management have been working hard to oversee your organization. The theme of our summer board meeting as well as Beil's Spiel this month is cleaning our house and getting affairs in order. At first glance this would seem an exercise for MCIA Management and the Board. After spending time looking at MCIA's function and what MCIA will need to do to stay viable, it would appear this exercise would be a good one for all of us to examine in our own businesses as well.

There have been and will continue to be changes taking place that affect how MCIA and its members do business. MCIA members need to take it upon themselves to keep up with the changes in our organization just as we would keep up with changes that affect our own farming or seed business. It is also very important for MCIA to keep you informed, as we always attempt to do. We all need to be as informed and as up to speed as we can be, both for the success of MCIA and our own businesses.

I encourage you to contact MCIA staff as well as your board members with any questions and concerns about your organization. Have a safe summer and a great harvest.

-Tim Backman

Organic Corner

§205.606 Update

Currently, the NOP has issued an "interim rule" with a list of 38 non-organic agricultural substances to be included in §205.606 of the NOP. The NOP is seeking feedback on these substances until August 27, 2007 to determine whether all 38 substances should stay in the final rule. If you want to comment on whether or not these non-organic agricultural substances should be allowed in products labeled as "organic," go to <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Newsroom/FedRegNoticeNLPProcessing062707.pdf>. Only nonorganic agricultural substances listed in §205.606 of the NOP that have been verified by an accredited certification agency as commercially unavailable will be allowed in products labeled as "organic."

Allowed Inputs for Organic Operations

If you are looking for inputs approved for use in certified operations, please review the products approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). A list of OMRI approved products can be found at <http://omri.org/> or you can contact the MCIA office for a hard copy of the list.

Organic Farmer of the Year Award

Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) is seeking nominations for its 2008 'Organic Farmer of the Year' award. The award will be presented at the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference scheduled for February 21-23, 2008 in La Crosse, WI. The deadline is September 1, 2007. Please visit MOSES at <http://www.mosesorganic.org/> for more information.

Beil's Spiel

"IT'S SPRING HOUSEKEEPING TIME!" I remember this admonition coming from my mother years ago when I was growing up in Clinton, Iowa. Every spring my mom would have everyone in the family involved in completely tearing the entire house apart and cleaning everything. It was a ritual that happened every year. As much as I hated having to go through what seemed at the time to be a real hassle, I came to realize the value of the exercise to maintaining a neat and orderly home for our family.

I think the concept of a good "spring cleaning" has value for any organization, including MCIA. Whether it is just a good clean-up, or addressing nagging issues that could potentially have a negative impact on the effectiveness of the association, cleaning up the way you perform your duties needs to happen. If these nagging issues (like the dirt that can accumulate over time in an active home) are not addressed, the kinds of services and products MCIA offers to members can be adversely impacted and clients could be subjected to unnecessary risks.

One such housekeeping issue we have been recently working on is the question of who has authority to officially certify seed products in Minnesota. Because of the shared production and cropping practices along the borders of our State, a number of our members and clients farm on both sides of our borders with Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota. As you would expect, convenience of obtaining necessary services becomes an important consideration for these producers. Certainly, the certification services offered in all of our neighboring states is of equal quality. The issue is not that MCIA can perform certification better than any other state. The issue is a legal one and if not properly addressed, could expose MCIA members to unnecessary risks.

The Federal Seed Act provides that in each State an agency is identified that has the authority to perform certification services, apply certification standards as outlined in the Act and to issue tags and other certification documentation attesting to the quality of the product. The authority to perform these services in each state is granted by the State Legislature and in the case of Minnesota, the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Director of Agricultural Experiment Station. Recent rulings have advised that seed products certified in a state by an agency from another state may not be "legally" certified and are subject to having their sale as a certified seed product prohibited.

These are not new rulings emanating from the respective jurisdictional authorities. Over time, the certification agencies involved have probably focused on the convenience factors more than the legal considerations. The laws and rules have not changed. However, the economic environment in which our members compete has changed significantly. MCIA has reason to be concerned that if these kinds of regulations are not applied uniformly, our members could be subject to economic risks that are greater than we can responsibly ignore. It has become necessary to "clean-up our act."

For most MCIA members this does not represent any change in the way you certify seed. For the few members that this might effect, please be assured that all the certification agencies involved are dedicated to making certain this does not negatively impact the way you routinely conduct your business. In fact, we hope that you will work with us and that in the end we can make it easier and more convenient to certify your seed. In addition, you can be assured that the risk considerations are appropriately addressed.

If you have any questions, please contact your field supervisor or Roger, Cindy or me at the St. Paul office.

-Gary Beil, President/CEO

Climate Exchange Announcement

The Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) has recently announced that the entire state of Minnesota will be eligible to sell carbon credits. The National Farmers Union is an approved aggregator, or buyer and seller of carbon credits. Current price per acre that growers can receive is approximately \$2-\$4/acre. Producers may earn carbon credits by no-till cropping, producing grass and forages, utilizing methane digesters as well as other practices. Answers to your questions can be found at the Farmers Union Carbon Credit Program website, which is <http://carboncredit.ndfu.org/>. This will help you decide if selling carbon credits fits your farming program. MCIA is an approved verifier of carbon credits, and while we will not work directly with the trading of carbon credits, it may be an added source of revenue for our members. The quickly approaching enrollment deadline for sign up this year is August 15th, 2007.

The Minnesota Seed Grower

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

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



The Minnesota Seed Grower

Published quarterly by the
 Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
 1900 Hendon Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55108
 Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN.
 Publication No. 352240

PERIODICAL

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.

Calendar

August 1-3 - North Central Seed Conference, Mandan, ND

August 23 - September 3 - MN State Fair, St. Paul, MN

September 16-18 - US Upper Midwest Speciality Grains Conference, Fargo, ND

November 16 - MCIA Board Meeting, St. Paul, MN

December 4-7 - ASTA Corn and Soybean Conference, Chicago, IL

January 13-14 - MCIA Annual Meeting, Morton, MN

Advertising Space Available in the MCIA Directory

Advertising space will be available again this year in the MCIA Directory. The Directory is distributed to approximately 2000 users who are seed producers, seed conditioners, seed wholesalers, retailers and many more in the agri-business industry. Please plan to submit your ad by August 15. For more information, please contact the office.

Advertisement rates:

Centerspread (15" x 10") \$700.00
 Inside Front Cover (7-1/2" x 10") 450.00
 Inside Back Cover (7-1/2" x 10") 350.00
 Full Page (7-1/2" x 10") 275.00
 1/2 page horizontal (4-3/4" x 7") 200.00
 1/2 page vertical (3-3/8" x 9-3/4") 200.00
 1/4 page (3-3/8" x 4-3/4") 125.00
 1/8 page (3-3/8" x 2-3/8") 75.00

Carryover Seed

Please report your carryover from 2006 of seed eligible for certification by August 15 to maintain its eligibility for certification. If certification is applied for more than 3 years after filing a "Declaration of Carryover Seed", a copy of the field inspection report must be furnished with the application. The form "Declaration of Carryover Seed" can be obtained from the MCIA office.

Part-time Field Inspector Job Openings

We are still looking for part-time field inspectors for the coming field inspection season.

Visit us on the web at: http://mncia.org/about_staff.html#positionsavailable, or contact the office at 1-800-510-6242 for information and an application.