

Specialty Grains Conference

Finding an opportunity to network with growers, processors and end-users of the Identity Preserved (IP), non-GMO, and specialty grain industry in a single setting can be a difficult task. The Midwest Specialty Grains Conference and Trade show held in Fargo, ND on September 16 and 17th provided just that opportunity. The Midwest Shippers Association, a cooperative consisting of growers and processors of identity preserved (IP) specialty grains hosted the conference. The Theme for the conference was "A New Era in Agriculture – Opportunities in Tomorrow's Markets"

The conference program included presentations on the Japanese natto soybean industry and the emerging Chinese tofu market. The Red River Valley area is a key production area for small seeded soybeans used for producing natto. Natto is a traditional Japanese food made from fermented soybeans which is commonly eaten for breakfast. Several Minnesota developed soybean varieties are utilized in the natto and tofu export markets. Other agenda items included transportation challenges, the impact of bio-fuels, the new farm bill, and consumer demands for specialty grains.

MCIA participated in the conference program. As moderator of one session, Gary Beil of MCIA stressed the importance of Certification and Identity Preserved programs for maintaining purity and quality from the field to the end user. Larry Svajgr of Indiana Crop Improvement represented the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). His presentation emphasized the value of an AOSCA agency to provide independent 3rd party verification and traceability to the specialty grain industry.

MCIA, in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Soybean breeding program, participated in the trade show. Dr. Jim Orf of the University and Roger Wippler of MCIA took this opportunity to meet with processors and food manufactures interested in Minnesota developed soybean varieties. MCIA has an active Technology Marketing program that licenses varieties developed at the University of Minnesota. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to meet with specialty grains producers, processors, and manufactures from the United States and around the world.



U of MN soybean breeder Dr. Jim Orf visits with Masako Masi Tateishi of the American Soybean Assn. Office in Tokyo and Masahito Orima, manager of natto production for Osato Co., Ltd.

Award Nominations Open

Do you know someone who should be recognized for his or her outstanding service to MCIA, the seed industry, and their community? Nominations are open for the following awards that will be presented at the MCIA annual meeting January 13-14, 2008 in Morton, MN. The award for Achievement in Crop Improvement acknowledges exemplary service through dedication to and support of the seed industry as well as involvement in the community. Premier Seedsman recognizes individuals or partners active in the production and promotion of quality seed. Honorary Premier Seedsman recognizes specific service to the seed industry by individuals that are not directly involved in a seed business. If you wish to nominate a candidate or would like a copy of the award guidelines, please contact the MCIA office at 1-800-510-6242. The deadline is November 15, 2007.

Congratulations Jody!

Jody Prudhomme, MCIA's Certification Specialist, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Natalie Lynn on September 24, 2007! This is the first child for Jody and her husband Jeff. Jody will be on maternity leave until January 1, 2008.

Japan Positive List IP Program

AOSCA approved the new Japan Positive List IP Program. This program helps growers meet the new Japan agriculture import requirements. Contact the MCIA office for more information.

Director Nominations

Board of Director nominations are open for the following: Peter Friederichs, District 3; Stevan Helmstetter, District 1; Cal Spronk, District 6; and Dennis Sjogren, Seed Trade. Peter, Stevan and Dennis have served two terms and are not eligible for re-election. Cal is eligible for re-election as he is finishing his first term. Send all nominations to: MCIA, 1900 Hendon Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. All nominations will be forwarded to the nomination committee.

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 Barley Sample:

*Zabel Seed (Michael Zabel),
Plainview, MN*

Champion Oats Sample:

*Falk Seed Farm (Scott Gilsdorf),
Murdock, MN*

Champion Wheat Sample:

*Krabbenhoft Seed & Supply,
Sabin, MN*

Champion Soybean Sample:

*Sawvell's Seed Inc. (Jonathon
Olson), Clements, MN*

Champion Showman Award:

*Circle C Seed (Keith Chisholm),
Gary, MN*

Beil's Spiel

LIVING IN TODAY'S GLOBAL AGE is the theme of the adult education session at our church this fall. Globalization is happening so fast it is impacting everything we do. As I have sat through these sessions, I have come to be clearly aware of the significant impact this globalization process has had on all of us. Whether it is the economy, the war, our family life, or our business life, everything we do has been altered dramatically in recent times because of the globalization process going on in the world we live in.

For example, MCIA is a vastly different organization today than it was back in 1995 when I came on board. We have had to change the way we do business and the kinds of services and products we offer in order to continue to fulfill our mission in this ever-changing global environment. Our mission has not changed, but the way we fulfill that mission has. The key to MCIA's mission still is to help our members and clients be more profitable, productive and competitive. We have to do things differently today from the way we did them in the past.

The impact of this globalization has caused us to examine some of the basic tenets of our association. Your board of directors has reviewed both the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of MCIA, and discovered they needed to be restated if they were to accurately reflect the core business of the association. MCIA's existing Articles of Incorporation provided that the association be involved only in seed certification activities, and made no provision for any other of the kinds of services provided by MCIA today. It became clear that in order for us to proceed with all the recently offered programs, we would have to change the Articles of Incorporation to accurately reflect that MCIA is organized and expected to offer these kinds of programs. New Articles have been drafted and approved by your board of directors. The next step will be to present them to the MCIA Annual Meeting on January 14, 2008 for final ratification by the membership.

Similarly, the current Bylaws of MCIA provide guidance as to how the business of MCIA is to be conducted, but after the board completed its work on restating the Articles of Incorporation, it reviewed the Bylaws and uncovered several areas that also have been impacted by all the effects of globalization. We are working on bringing the Bylaws up to date, and will finalize a draft for presentation to the membership at the January 14 annual meeting.

It is certain that the pace of globalization will continue to impact all our lives and the way we conduct our businesses. It is nearly impossible to predict what changes will be demanded of us next. We all hope we will not have to face many changes that negatively impact our lives. What we can predict is how we intend to respond to the forces of change imposed by globalization. Generally we all agree that most of the new technologies and business opportunities that have emerged for MCIA and its members have offered all of us new and challenging opportunities for growth and staying competitive.

Be assured that MCIA will continue to seek out the best way to respond to the opportunities. It is important that you plan now to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting January 13 and 14 at Jackpot Junction. Planning for the meeting is underway and program detail will be available soon.

-Gary Beil, President/CEO

Chairman's View

Fall, football, and harvest are all upon us. I hope you have fun and success with all of them! With fall brings another harvest. With harvest come the rewards of another year of planning and labor. With the state seeing such a broad spectrum of weather, from severe flooding to drought, I hope your harvest is better than you expect. With prices at levels we have not seen in a long time, farm businesses should have a great opportunity to show a good bottom line for the year, and lend optimism to us all as we start the planning process for 2008.

As you look forward to 2008, I hope you take a little time to see how MCIA has changed and improved its programs and business over the last year. I encourage you to plan to attend your association's annual meeting to see and hear first hand what MCIA has to offer you. For MCIA's continued success your active participation is not only wanted but needed. Enjoy the harvest and be safe.

-Kind regards, Tim Backman

University of Minnesota News

Agronomy and Plant Genetics

MCIA Board member Nancy Ehlke has been appointed Head of the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics. Dr. Ehlke has served as interim head of the Department since January, 2005. In addition to her new responsibilities, she will continue to conduct research work in alternative forage and turf grass breeding, genetics, and seed production.

Plant Pathology

The University of Minnesota Department of Plant Pathology recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary. The celebration held September 18-20 included social events, lectures, and tours of the department facilities. Notable guests included Nobel prize winner Norman Borlaug. Dr. Borlaug, a graduate from the department of plant pathology, recently received the Congressional Gold Medal. The department is a world leader in plant pathology and its research continues to improve agriculture around the world.

UMore Park

The University of Minnesota recently held six listening sessions to gather ideas and input for a new community being planned on the site of the University of Minnesota Outreach, Research and Education (UMore) Park near Rosemount. UMore Park includes 5,000 acres of land owned by the University. The University has begun a master planning process to guide the development of a new community at UMore Park. The vision is to create a University-founded, culturally rich, diverse community of 20,000 to 30,000 people, to be undertaken over a 25 to 30-year period.

National Organic Program Updates

USDA Notice on Processed Animal Manures

The NOP regulations previously did not address heat processed animal manure products, and as a result, the NOP issued a Policy Notice to address this issue. Processed manure now may be used as a supplement to a soil building program without a specific interval between application and harvest as long as the products are treated so that all portions of the product reach a minimum temperature and are dried to a maximum moisture level. Please visit <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NoticesPolicies/NOP5006ProcessedManure7-16-07.pdf> or contact the MCIA Office for more information.

Aurora Organic Dairy Signs a Consent Agreement with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has entered into a consent agreement with Aurora Organic Dairy in response to a Notice of Proposed Revocation issued earlier this year alleging violations of the NOP regulations. Under the consent agreement, Aurora's Platteville, Colorado, facility must meet several conditions in order to continue to operate as a certified organic dairy operation. Additionally, AMS will exercise increased scrutiny over Aurora's operations during a one-year probationary review period. If Aurora does not abide by the agreement during that time, AMS may withdraw from the agreement and could revoke the organic certification for Aurora's Platteville plant. Read the complete USDA News Release at: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/08/0228.xml

Change of address: NOP Appeals

Please note that the address for submitting National Organic Program (NOP) Appeals is changing again! Effective Thursday, September 20, 2007, all correspondence relating to appeals should be sent to:

USDA, AMS, c/o NOP Appeals Staff
STOP 0203, Room 3507-S
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Seed Lab Notes

Declare your carryover seed! Do you intend to complete certification on any seed produced in 2006 or earlier? Now is the time to submit your Declaration of Carryover Seed forms. All carryover seed for which certification has not been completed should be reported. If you need a form, please contact the MCIA office.

Send your seed samples now! Lab results for most crops are good for 12 months. Test now so you know the quality of your seed. When sending in samples for testing please be sure the information on the sample bag and the sampling report is consistent and complete. Also, be sure to note what tests you are requesting.

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
 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.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE MCIA STAFF

The MCIA office will be closed November 22 - 23, 2007.

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In Memorium

Tom Anderson, 59, of Barnesville, MN passed away July 23, 2007. Tom was a friend of MCIA and was an active supporter of ag research. A proud member of the Minnesota Wheat Growers Association, he also served as chairman of the Small Grains Research and Communication Committee. As national co-chair of the United States Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative, he was a leader in obtaining funding for Fusarium Head Blight (scab) research. Tom served a number of other organizations and was recognized numerous times for his contributions and commitment to agriculture.

Calendar

November 11-12 ASTA Farm & Lawn Seed Conference, Kansas City, MO
 November 15 ASA Food Soybean Conference, Japan
 November 16 MCIA Board of Directors Meeting, St. Paul, MN
 December 4-7 ASTA Corn & Soybean Research Conference, Chicago, IL
 December 12-13 Prairie Grains Conference, Grand Forks, ND
 January 13-14, 2008 MCIA Annual Meeting, Morton, MN
 January 13-14, 2008 MN Soybean Growers Assn. Annual Meeting, Morton, MN
 January 18-19, 2008 MN Organic and Grazing Conference, St. Cloud, MN

MCIA Annual Meeting Set for January 13-14, 2008

The MCIA Annual Meeting will be held January 13 and 14th, 2008 at Jackpot Junction Hotel, Morton, MN. Our meeting will be held jointly with the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. The MCIA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have been revised and membership approval will be required at the Annual meeting. Additional program information and registration materials will be distributed in the future. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

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 I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. - Anne Costello