

MCIA Annual Meeting

The MCIA Board of Directors and Staff invite you to take part in the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association. This year's annual meeting will again 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. The MCIA Annual Meeting will be held January 13 and 14, 2008 at Jackpot Junction Casino, Morton, MN. Registration materials have been mailed to all MCIA members.

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 27, 2007. MCIA members are invited to nominate individuals for the Achievement in Crop Improvement Award and the Premier and Honorary Premier Seedsman award.



Paul Mickelson

The MCIA Annual meeting will include a reception Sunday evening for MCIA retirees Jerry Hermann and Paul Mickelson. They have dedicated a combined 80 years of service to MCIA. Join us at the Annual meeting to wish them a happy retirement!

Come join us for what is sure to be an entertaining and informative annual meeting!



Jerry Hermann

Have MCIA Print Your Bulk Seed Sales Certificates!

All sellers of bulk certified seed must provide a Bulk Seed Sales Certificate to the buyer at the time of sale to comply with seed law and certification labeling requirements. A complete Bulk Seed Sales Certificate must accompany each seed shipment.

To help seed sellers meet this requirement, MCIA is offering a new service. Upon request, MCIA will print key information on the Bulk Sales Certificates for a specified lot. Such information shall include the seller's name, variety, crop, lot number, seed class, seed analysis and PVP status. At the time of the sale, the seller needs only to complete the certificate for the lot being sold by writing in the buyer's name and address, the amount of seed sold, checking whether it is for resale/not for resale and signing the certificate.

To request printed Bulk Sales Certificates, indicate "printed" along with the number of certificates required in the space next to "bulk certificates" on the Sampling Report form. This service will be available for a fee of \$5/lot. MCIA will continue to offer Bulk Sales Certificates unprinted and on-line in addition to the new printed certificates.

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 1, District 3, District 6, and Related Industry representative. All nominations will be forwarded to the nomination committee.

Beil's Spiel

IT'S ANNUAL MEETING TIME AGAIN! This was the focus of a recent Monday morning staff meeting here at MCIA. Your staff management team usually meets first thing on Mondays, those based in St. Paul in person, and those in the field by phone, to discuss plans for the week and to address current issues. Our general consensus on this particular morning was that we could not believe it was time to begin making final plans for the MCIA Annual Meeting.

We will be meeting again in conjunction with the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. Like last year, we will be sharing some common events such as meals, but each association will conduct its own independent business sessions. An entertaining and information-filled program is in development.

This is a particularly important annual meeting for MCIA members. During our regular business meeting, your Board of Directors will be seeking members' approval of a revised set of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for MCIA. These two important guiding documents have not been reviewed for nearly 20 years and have become very outdated. In addition to several recent changes in tax codes and current legislation that require restatement of our Articles and Bylaws, MCIA's business has changed. MCIA is providing a much broader array of services and programs, and our Articles and Bylaws need to be expanded to accommodate the needs of these business activities.

You should have received in the mail a copy of the proposed restated Articles and Bylaws for your review prior to the Annual Meeting on January 14, 2008. The documents we sent to you were annotated to note how these restated documents differ from those currently in effect. Each member should have a copy of the current Articles and Bylaws in your files. A copy is also available on the MCIA web site for your reference.

In addition to consideration of the proposed new Articles and Bylaws, many other exciting events are planned. Sunday evening will be a fun joint meeting with our friends and colleagues from the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association with entertainment and an opportunity to honor several who have retired from each of our associations. The featured speaker at the noon luncheon on Monday will be Dr. Bev Durgan, Dean of Extension and Director of the Minnesota Experiment Station. Monday afternoon will be a time when your staff will be "showcasing" MCIA's current program offerings.

Be sure you have January 13 and 14, 2008 on your calendar and join us for another MCIA annual meeting!

-Gary Beil

The Chairman's View

As 2007 comes to a close, it is time to say thanks for another bountiful year and start the planning process for the upcoming year.

2007 to say the least was an eventful year for all involved in agriculture in any way, from weather to markets and everything in between. Planning for 2008 looks as if there will be no dull days ahead.

In planning for 2008, please plan to attend your association's annual meeting. Now more than ever, we need your participation and input into what MCIA will do in 2008 and beyond. Plans have been made for what we hope will be an informative meeting. All of us have many choices of what events we plan to attend. I sincerely hope you will make the time to attend your annual meeting, both to find out what MCIA is doing for members and to give us your input. We really hope to see you there.

Merry Christmas and have a Safe, Happy & Prosperous New Year!

- Tim Backman

Organic Corner

NOP Updates

The National Organic Program website has been updated to provide the most current regulatory information. Visit <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOP/standards.html> for current standards and National List information.

MCIA Organic Services Committee Meeting

The MCIA Organic Services Committee will be meeting on January 18 at noon during the 2008 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 the MCIA office.

Calendar Items

January 18-19, 2008 - Minnesota Organic Conference and Trade Show, St. Cloud Civic Center, St. Cloud, MN. Visit <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/organic/conference.htm>

February 8-9, 2008- NPSAS 29th Annual Winter Conference, Seven Seas, Mandan, ND. Visit <http://www.npsas.org/events.html#winter> for more information.

February 21-23, 2008- Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference, LaCrosse Center, La Crosse, WI. More information can be found at <http://www.mosesorganic.org/umofc/intro.html>.

Statement of Activities and Financial Position For the Year Ended May 31, 2007

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Inspection and Laboratory Services	Foundation Seed	Total
Revenues			
Fees	\$1,178,363		\$1,178,363
Seed Sales		\$484,558	484,558
Grant Income	68,730		68,730
Royalties & Other Income	<u>104,082</u>	<u>22,104</u>	<u>126,186</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	1,351,175	506,662	1,857,837
Expenses			
Program	918,457	162,270	1,080,727
Supplies/Maint	81,962	21,550	103,512
Insurance, Prof. Services,			
Payroll Taxes	250,499	49,100	299,599
Seed Procurement		233,186	233,186
Grant Expense	28,943		28,943
Miscellaneous	<u>6,370</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>6,635</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,286,231</u>	<u>466,371</u>	<u>1,752,60</u>
Net(Increase) in Net Assets	64,944	40,291	105,235
Net Assets, Beginning of Year			<u>765,949</u>
Net Assets, End of Year			\$871,184

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	
Cash	202,548
Accounts Receivable	122,096
Accrued Interest Receivable	1,138
Inventories	11,257
Prepaid Expenses	30,760
Investments	856,141
Equipment	498,434
Less:Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(440,917)</u>
Net Equipment	<u>57,517</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	1,281,457
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Note Payable - Auto	30,601
Accounts Payable	53,189
Royalty & VDF Fees Payable	211,233
Accrued Salaries & Vacation	<u>115,250</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	410,273
Net Assets:	<u>871,184</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	1,281,457

Seed Notes

Variety Assessment and Royalty Fees

Billing for the various royalty and variety assessment fees have been mailed out to the appropriate individuals. As a reminder, even if you have discarded or carried over seed for the invoiced varieties, we need to have the statements returned to us with the amount discarded or carried over indicated for each lot and variety.

Foundation Seed for 2008

Now is the time to order your Foundation Seed for 2008 planting! A listing of varieties available was sent to all certified seed producers at the end of November. Order now for best availability!

In Memoriam

Jim Habstritt, of Roseau, passed away October 18, 2007. He was 60 years old. Jim farmed his whole life with his dad and his brothers, Chuck and Scott. His father, Charles, was the first farmer to bring the seed processing business to the Roseau area. In 1973 he and his brothers started a seed processing facility northeast of Roseau and are still in business today. The Habstritts, long time MCIA members, are producers and processors of grass seed and small grains.

Jim graduated from Roseau High School and Bemidji State University. He loved sports and enjoyed watching sporting events of all kinds in Roseau. He also loved to fish, hunt, trap, and play cards. Jim is survived by his wife Pat of Roseau, and daughters Katie, Jaclyn and Holly. MCIA extends condolences to the Habstritt family.

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.

**Don't Forget! The MCIA Annual Meeting is on
 January 13-14, 2008 at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel
 in Morton, MN**

The Minnesota Seed Grower

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PERIODICAL

Seed Testing Update

The MCIA Seed Laboratory in St. Paul will close and will no longer perform seed testing as of December 28, 2007. MCIA will continue to be the final authority for seed certification in Minnesota. MCIA will review test results from seed testing partners and determine if seed meets final certification standards. MCIA has authorized the following seed laboratories to perform testing for field crop seed:

- South Dakota State University- Seed Testing Laboratory, Brookings, SD
- North Dakota State Seed Department- Seed Lab, Fargo, ND
- BioDiagnostics Inc., River Falls, WI

In order to receive a seed label or certificate indicating that a product met MCIA Standards, product must be tested at one of these labs. Members will receive instructions on how to submit samples in order to ensure that testing and certification is completed in a timely manner. MCIA will continue to provide all other programs and services including production and distribution of Foundation seed, field inspections, customized seed and IP programs as well as auditing and consulting services.

Calendar

December 24, 25, 26.....MCIA Office Closed
 January 1, 2008.....MCIA Office Closed
 January 13-14, 2008.....MCIA and MSGA Annual Meeting, Morton, MN
 January 18-19, 2008.....MN Organic and Grazing Conference, St. Cloud, MN

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year from all the MCIA Staff!