

BEN LANG NAMED NEW MCIA PRESIDENT/CEO



Ben Lang

Effective June 1, 2008, Ben Lang began his tenure as MCIA President and Chief Executive Officer. Tim Backman, Chair of the MCIA Board of Directors, made the announcement in early April stating, "The board is confident that Ben will provide great leadership as MCIA continues to fulfill its mission of serving the needs of its members." Ben took over the MCIA leadership role upon the retirement of Dr. Gary Beil, who has served as the association's President/CEO since January 1, 1995.

Ben has more than 25 years of experience with MCIA. He joined the organization as a field inspector and seed analyst. During his career, he has served the association in several senior management positions, most recently as the Manager of Field Services. As Manager of Field Services he has been instrumental in the development of many new MCIA programs and is actively involved in writing standards and program procedures.

In addition to being a graduate of the University of Minnesota, Ben has successfully completed extensive training as a National Seed Health Systems Auditor, Organic Handler, Livestock and Producer Inspector, and ISO/IATCA Quality Management System Lead Auditor. He has also been actively involved in numerous committees of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) and the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) focusing on various certification and quality assurance issues.

Ben is looking forward to the opportunity to serve MCIA and meet the needs of the organization and its members.

Let Us Hear From You!

The greatest strength of MCIA lies in its membership. MCIA's increasingly diverse membership delivers a vast array of agricultural products and services to the marketplace. From MCIA's traditional base of field crop seed producers to mulch producers to organic food processors and many more - our members provide quality products that are shipped worldwide. The collective knowledge base that our membership must have to serve such diverse markets is a tremendous resource that needs to be tapped if MCIA is to realize its potential.

I have served MCIA in several roles, first as a seed analyst and field inspector, and later as a Field Supervisor and Manager of Field Services. Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to have held positions that allowed me to work directly with MCIA's members on a daily basis. I learned early in my career that my favorite part of the job has been visiting with the producers, conditioners and distributors that we serve, sharing their experiences and discussing ways to achieve our common goals. Each time I met a new program participant, I tried to keep in mind the need for me to spend more time listening and less time talking. I learned that while many of these folks may have been producing the same product, no two did it in quite the same way. They constantly created new inventive ways to solve their problems that worked for their operations. There were lessons to be learned and messages that could be taken away from each conversation.

We need to utilize that same resourceful membership to continue to build MCIA into a strong enduring organization. One of my most important responsibilities as President/CEO will be to encourage open interaction between the membership and the staff. We need to hear from you, your ideas for making the programs more user-friendly, your needs for expanded or enhanced services and your concerns when improvements are needed. I plan to travel throughout the state to visit with MCIA members - through meetings and individually. I will encourage you to participate actively on committees or other roles that help shape the organization and the services it provides. I urge you to provide feedback to MCIA's field and office staff. As program participants, you can offer a unique perspective that we cannot get from anyone else. Membership input will be used to shape the programs we offer and how we do business at MCIA. Through these interactions, MCIA can tap into our association's greatest strength, its members.

Ben Lang
MCIA President/CEO

MCIA Welcomes New Staff Members...

New Field Supervisor Named



Tom Lorang

MCIA is happy to announce that Tom Lorang has joined our staff as of June 9. Tom will be serving as Field Supervisor for the territory of southern and central Minnesota. Tom comes to MCIA from Pioneer HiBred International where he served as Soybean Research Associate and was directly involved in new product development, purification and field research. He has a degree in Agronomy from South Dakota State University. Tom and his family reside in Renville County near Morton. Please join us in welcoming Tom to our organization. Tom can be reached at his office: 507-697-6373, on his cell: 320-905-3008 or email: tom.lorang@mncia.org.

New Organic Account Coordinator Named



Michelle Menken

Hello, everybody. I have filled the Organic Account Coordinator position since March at MCIA. I am a city girl, having grown up in Minneapolis, but with roots in Southwest Minnesota. My family still has a farm near Storden, MN. I have a varied background but returned to the University in 2000 to study Agricultural Economics, focusing on organic agriculture, and then moved to Plant Breeding and Genetics. I am currently working with Dr. Jim Orf on an organic soybean breeding project, which I hope to finish next year. I look forward to building the organic program at MCIA and I hope to meet many of you at various events. Look for me at the Lamberton Organic Field Day, July 10 and FarmFest August 5-7, or contact me at 1-800-510-6242.

State Fair Certified Seed Show

A few additions have been made to this year's Certified Seed Show. There is now a class for perennial ryegrass and native grasses. The variety list for grains has also been updated. Ag-Hort Bee Rule and Premium books can be requested from the State Fair Office at 651-288-4417 or contact Roger Wippler if you need more information. Prepare your samples now for entry to the fair.

2008 Midwest Specialty Grains Conference and Trade Show

The Midwest Shipper's Association, a cooperative regional trade association made up of growers, handlers, and processors of US Upper Midwest identity preserved (IP) specialty grains, is hosting the 5th annual Midwest Specialty Grains Conference and Trade Show, August 26-27, 2008 at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott Hotel in Bloomington. For more information contact Bruce Abbe 952-253-6231 or www.grainconference.com.

5th Annual North Central Seed Conference

The 5th Annual NCSC will be held July 23-25 in Rapid City, South Dakota at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center. For more information, contact Claudia Osterman 651-451-2340

Organic Corner

NOP Updates

The NOP website has been updated. Make sure you are familiar with how to access the current version of the NOP. From the MCIA homepage, www.mncia.org, click on "Organic Certification" under Programs. Then click on "Standards-USDA NOP Rule", under Quick Links. This will take you to the USDA NOP homepage. Click on "Regulations" under General Information. Then click on "Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (e-CFR) website", under Regulatory Text. This will take you to the current version of the NOP. Once you have this open, you may wish to bookmark it as a favorite.

Organic Events

Don't forget to attend the Organic Field day July 10th at the University's SWROC at Lamberton, MN. This site has 160 acres of certified organic production. The tour will highlight various organic trials on weed control, planting dates, forage and cover crops, and new soybean varieties.

MCIA will be staffing a booth in the Agripreneurship Pavilion during the 2008 Farmfest held at the Gilfillan Estate in Redwood Falls, August 5-7. Please stop by and visit with us and other representatives of organic and sustainable agriculture.

Chairman's View

Spring is past and the heat of summer is upon us. Crops are finally starting to grow with the warm weather. Minnesota Crop Improvement Assn. is ready to begin a new year also. I would like to personally welcome Ben Lang as our new CEO. With his many years of service to our organization, we know the transition will be a very smooth one for everyone. I would also like to thank Gary Beil for his years of dedication and service to making MCIA what it is today. As always please take part in what happens in your organization. We need input from everyone to make MCIA a better organization. Have a safe and prosperous summer.

-Tim Backman

Foundation Seed Sales

Demand for all Foundation seed increased in 2008 reaching the highest levels since 2002. A very strong demand for wheat resulted in the highest wheat sales since the early 1990's. The wheat varieties most requested were the new Minnesota release Tom as well as the recently released RB07 and Faller. Barley demand rose slightly with the release of Rasmusson from Minnesota and continued interest in Lacey. Oat sales remained constant despite the increased interest in wheat. Overall soybean demand increased in 2008, sales of specialty varieties from Minnesota and Iowa as well as contract production accounted for nearly 80% of the soybeans sold. Demand for conventional soybeans increased to 750 units compared to 495 in 2007 as seed producers try to maintain supplies for conventional varieties. Table 1 provides a five year comparison of Foundation sales of these major crops.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% Increase **
Wheat	7,902	13,563	11,296	15,200	19,842	30%
Oats	4,380	4,288	4,298	3,400	3,640	7%
Barley	845	667	531	2,200	2,600	18%
Soybean	4,953	5,055	1,260*	3,295	3,530	7%
Total	18,080	23,573	21,404	24,095	29,612	23%

* 2006 year does not include specialty soybeans

** % Change is between 2007 and 2008

2008 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.

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

Tom Lorang -
tom.lorang@mncia.org
Phone: 507-697-6373
Cell: 320-905-3008

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

The Minnesota Seed Grower

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

Ben Lang..... President & CEO
 Tim Backman Chairman
 James Hunzeker..... Vice Chairman
 Neal Anderson..... Treasurer
 John Lundquist..... Secretary
 Brent Benike Director
 David Boehm..... Director
 Rick Brandenburger..... Director
 Nancy Ehlke Director
 Mary Hanks 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.

**Save the Date**

*MCIA Annual Meeting is set for
 January 6 and 7, 2009
 Morton, MN*

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PERIODICAL

Calendar

- July 8** - U of M Research and Outreach Center Field Day, Lamberton, MN
- July 10** - U of M Research and Outreach Center Organic Days, Lamberton, MN
- July 11** - U of M Research and Outreach Center Field Day, Morris, MN
- July 17** - U of M Research and Outreach Center Field Day, Crookston, MN
- July 23-25** - North Central Seed Conference, Rapid City, SD
- August 4-8** - North American Prairie Conference, Winona State University, MN
- August 5-7** - FarmFest, Redwood Falls, MN
- August 26-28** - 2008 Midwest Specialty Grains Conference & Trade Show, Minneapolis, MN
- November 14** - MCIA Board Meeting - St. Paul, MN
- January 6-7, 2009** - 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 Center (7-1/2" x 10")	300.00
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

Seed Testing Information

With the 2007-08 testing season behind us, MCIA is looking for your feedback on what we need to do to improve the testing process for the coming year. If you have questions, comments or suggestions on how we can improve the process for tracking samples, receiving results and exchange of information please contact 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.