

New Research Facility Will Help Safeguard the Supply of Global Wheat Crops

ST. PAUL, Minn., June 13, 2011 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) broke ground on a state-of-the-art greenhouse that will play a key role in helping scientists combat a growing global disease threat to the world’s wheat and barley supplies.

“Historically, stem rust has been the most destructive disease of wheat and barley, but in recent decades, scientists have been able to breed resistance to this disease into new varieties of wheat,” said ARS Administrator Edward B. Knipling. “Since 1999, the world has faced a new and unprecedented threat from a stem rust called Ug99. More than 80 percent of our global wheat crop is vulnerable to Ug99. This new greenhouse puts another U.S. research facility on the front lines to battle Ug99 and help secure global food security.”

The greenhouse will increase controlled growing space at ARS’ Cereal Disease Laboratory (CDL) on the University of Minnesota campus in St. Paul, and boost the laboratory’s analytic capacity five-fold.

“By expanding our commitment to research that targets crop diseases like Ug99, we can strengthen food security and reduce hunger and poverty in countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Pakistan,” said Robert Bertram, head of USAID’s Office of Agriculture, Research and Technology. “This research concurrently helps U.S. scientists protect America’s wheat crops.”

The St. Paul laboratory also plays a leading role in ARS’ research program to discover new genetic resistance to stem rust and other rusts and incorporate those genes into new wheat breeding material. The new greenhouse will help speed the hunt for these vital resistance genes.

ARS is coordinating the evaluation of wheat lines from U.S. wheat breeders—both public and private—for resistance to Ug99 in Africa. Since 2005, more than 14,000 lines from 28 universities, 11 companies and 8 ARS laboratories have been tested in Kenya. These efforts link closely with USAID’s support of international wheat research programs that develop



Photo courtesy of USDA-ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory

resistant varieties of wheat adapted to the needs of farmers in at-risk regions such as East Africa and South Asia.

ARS also is distributing wheat breeding lines, which have already proven their ability to stand up to Ug99 in cooperative test nurseries in Kenya and Ethiopia, to wheat breeders and geneticists in 34 countries around the world.

The groundbreaking was part of a four-day research conference that attracted 400 of the world’s top wheat and barley experts to the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus. The conference was sponsored by the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative, which was created with the support of the late Nobel Peace Prize laureate and University of Minnesota alumnus Norman Borlaug. The Borlaug Global Rust Initiative has led to international cooperation between ARS researchers and more than 40 other institutions and countries since 2005.

For more information, go to:

www.feedthefuture.gov or www.ars.usda.gov/Ug99/.

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Foundation Seed News

Roger Wippler, Manager, Foundation Seed Services

It is said about Minnesota that if you don't like the weather stick around it'll change. In early June we experienced temps over 100° on Tuesday and by Friday the high temps were in the 50's. Just last year we had one of the earliest planting seasons on record, this year it has been be one of the latest. If we just average those temperatures and planting seasons we would have a nice 75 degree day and an ideal planting date that would make a lot of people happy.

What does this weather commentary have to do with a Foundation seed report? Well, the weather along with grain prices seem to be two factors that affect Foundation seed sales. Good prices helped keep demand strong for Foundation spring wheat seed, while good corn and soybean prices probably had the opposite effect on barley and oat sales. The late spring did not favor small grain production and we saw very little Foundation seed sales activity, as ideal planting times came and went.

The weather and strong grain prices combined for an interesting year of Foundation seed sales. Overall, sales increased by 5% compared to 2010. Foundation seed sales of spring wheat rebounded in 2011 increasing 26% over 2010. Sales were boosted by two new varieties: Minnesota released Rollag, a new line with very good scab tolerance and straw strength, while Prosper a strong yielding variety was a joint release from North Dakota and Minnesota. RB07 and Faller continue to be popular varieties.

Oat sales were very similar to last year. The most requested oat varieties included Badger and Esker - both Wisconsin varieties that do not have a Registered seed class. Barley sales declined to the lowest levels since 2006. Lacey continues to be the most requested variety, followed by the new scab tolerant variety, Quest.

Demand for soybeans continues to vary with the key factor being demand from food grade markets. Higher prices for commodity soybeans puts pressure on specialty markets which affects demand and in turn impacts Foundation soybean sales. Soybean sales dropped in 2011 as we saw demand decline dramatically compared to 2010. Sales of general purpose conventional varieties dropped from 583 units to only 58 units in 2011. Directly and indirectly weather and prices have and will continue to affect the Foundation seed program. The following table compares previous year's sales.

Yearly Foundation Seed Sales 2007-2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change from last yr.
Wheat	15,200	19,842	13,688	9,862	12,438	↑ 26%
Oats	3,400	3,640	4,442	3,649	3,608	↓ 1%
Barley	2,200	2,600	1,110	1,364	866	↓ 36%
Soybean	3,295	3,530	3,419	4,070	2,915	↓ 28%
Total	24,095	29,612	22,659	18,945	19,827	↑ 5%

Dewayne Hermanson Retires and Closes Seed Plant

Dewayne took over the seed business when his father, Art, retired in the early 80's. Art started the business in the 1950's. He raised small grain seed and took it to Eldred Buer for cleaning and Dewayne went along many times.

They started with a small clipper mill back then, bought a larger one in the 80's, then in the early 90's bought a Delta 144 screener. That, together with a Forsberg gravity table let them do a good cleaning job. They sold seed under the MPS (Minnesota Public Seed) brand, certifying small grain and soybeans until soybeans shifted to Roundup. There's only a limited amount of wheat or other small grain in their area now, so Dewayne says that it's time to leave the business.

Dewayne states, "We've really enjoyed and appreciate our association with MCIA and the people in it. You are a great credit to our state. We'll put our equipment up for sale and do a few different things in life now."

If you are interested in purchasing equipment from the Hermanson Seed Plant, please contact Dewayne at 320-226-3405.

Field School for Ag Professionals

A hands-on learning experience about pest and production management for Minnesota's major crops. This program is for agronomists, crop production retailers, seed dealers, consultants, Extension Educators and government agency personnel.

Participants may choose to attend either July 27, July 28 or both days. To register, call 612-625-2778 or visit www.extension.umn.edu/agprofessionals.

Midwest Specialty Grains Conference & Trade Show

The Premier Global Trade and Transportation Event for Grain and Oilseed Exports from the Upper Midwest USA will be held at the Seattle Hilton Airport Hotel and Conference Center in Seattle, WA on August 22-24, 2011.

For more information go to -

www.grainconference.org or call 952-835-4774.



Organic Corner

Michelle Menken, Organic Coordinator

This summer is off to a slow start for many producers - cold, wet conditions have prevented many from getting into the fields as soon as they would have liked. All farm and vegetable producers applications should be in by now. Please call the office if you need an extension or you will be charged late fees. If you need to make changes to the application because you have had to change crops planted, you can do that by contacting the office or informing the inspector.

We have had some personnel changes in the organic program. We are working with more independent inspectors this year. The NOP prefers that we alternate inspectors occasionally, so you may be seeing a new inspector this year. Jeff Gunderson, the Organic Certification Specialist, has moved on to the warmer climes of Southern California. He will be working in the University of California extension system.

His place will be filled by Susan Stewart who has been the certification manager at the Wedge Co-op in Minneapolis.

We plan to attend several field days this summer. Please join us. The Organic Field Day at Lamberton is on July 7th at the University's Extension and Outreach Center. This is always an interesting day and is highly recommended. Check out their website for more information: <http://swroc.cfans.umn.edu/ResearchandOutreach/OrganicEcology/index.htm>. The Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society (NPSAS) will have four field days which we are sponsoring this year. On July 13th in Estelline, SD they will focus on permaculture with fruit trees and shrubs and hoop houses; on July 29th in Ruso, ND the focus will be on grazing and livestock; on August 23rd in Beresford, SD they will be at SDSU's research station and will include an organic farm tour; and September 14th they will be in Park River, ND and focus on soil health and cover crops. For more information, please check their website at: <http://www.npsas.org>.

Susan Stewart Joins Organic Program



We are pleased to announce that Susan Stewart joined the MCIA staff on June 16 to fill the position of Organic Certification Specialist. Susan will perform organic certification activities including information collection

and distribution, record creation, issuing reports and other certification functions. Susan prepared a brief bio to introduce herself:

My career started at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus. I graduated with the first class of the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Bachelor of Science program.

My professional experiences are with the public and private sectors, starting with a small, quasi-public, state agency in Maryland. There, I established a recycling system for scrap tires and managed the clean-up of illegal tire dumps and two yard waste composting facilities. While visiting my sister in Singapore, I was intrigued by an invitation to develop a recycling system for construction and demolition (C&D) debris and spent two years commuting and established the foundation for the recycling facility and beneficial uses for C&D debris that exist there today.

I returned to Minnesota and completed a Master of Public Administration at Hamline University while working for a few private businesses. For the past seven years, I worked at the Wedge Natural Foods Co-op and for the past four years as the Organic Certification and Sustainability Coordinator, the receiving end of organic certification.

I am pleased that my career has brought me back to the St. Paul campus and especially to the MCIA Organic Certification Program. I look forward to being a full participant in providing certification services to MCIA clients and in the growth of this Program.

MN State Fair Certified Seed Show

Submit your certified seed samples to 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>.

Meet the New Board Members



*Craig Damstrom,
Alexandria, MN*

Craig is an agri-business marketing and business development specialist who has had extensive experience in North America and Latin America. His focus is on developing markets for small

and medium sized companies in these regions.

Craig began by serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala and then as a Peace Corps Advisor in Ecuador in agriculture and community development. He spent a number of years in top management positions for two Fortune 500 companies working in Costa Rica, Mexico, Canada and the United States.

In 1987, he left his corporate career to purchase and manage the family's irrigated farm in Alexandria, MN. From 2000-2007, he served as an Agriculture Trade Consultant for the State of Minnesota helping farmer groups market, sell and export their value-added food and feed products directly to Mexico, Central America, Cuba, and Asia.

In 2007, Craig started a container company for use as a vehicle to enhance the marketing of ag products to the world. He continues to be involved as a significant investor in this business as well as providing consulting services to international food grade marketing companies.

He presently resides with his wife, Kathy, at their diversified farm near Alexandria.



*Paul Kjolhaug,
Willmar, MN*

Paul grew up near Springfield, MN and received a BS degree in Agronomy from the University of Minnesota. Early in his career Paul worked with Doc and Don Berry at Northern Farm and

Garden, the predecessor of Norfarm Seeds, in production and conditioning of legume and grass seeds and foundation sunflower seed.

From 1984 to 1997, he worked with Syngenta legacy companies (Interstate Seed Company, Interstate Payco, VanDerHave) in various roles – quality management, production and operations of soybeans, hybrid sunflowers, hybrid seed corn, canola and sugarbeet seed in North America. From 1997 to 2001, he worked for Kjolhaug Environmental Services an environmental consulting firm focused on assessment and wetland delineation and permitting, and wetland and upland restoration.

Currently, he is with MayerSeedLine, an international wholesale seed brokerage and contract production firm, working with hybrid seed corn and sunflowers, soybeans, and canola. Paul has utilized MCIA programs and has served on various committees.

Paul and his wife, Jodi, have four children, all who have married wonderful spouses and have been blessed with four grandchildren.



Chairman's View

*James Hunzeker,
Board Chair*

Where Are We Headed This Year?

Oil prices, Mideast tensions, protesters in the streets, the economy, health care, housing, taxes, education, and budgets just to name a few. The whole thing reminds me of hurtling down a ski hill, totally out of control, and facing a certain crash.

What to do? Three words: Grab Your Boots. Grabbing your boots when skiing out of control allows one to lower their center of gravity as far as possible and get one's weight

on the front of their skis allowing one to execute changes of direction. "Grabbing the boots" equates to "regaining control".

We need not worry about things we have no control of. We need to stick to the business plan and execute business decisions. We need to make budgets, plan for contingencies, and keep workplace safety in the front of our minds. We need to set aside time for our families. In short, we need to keep doing what we do, and we need to do a good job of it.

Hurtling down the hill and grabbing your boots allows you to regain control. However, it doesn't affect your speed. So far 2011 is a very exciting ride and will be remembered for a long time.

The Board of Directors will hold their Summer Meetings on June 23 and 24 in Lanesboro, MN. We will plan for the coming year, approve the next year's budget, and plan for long term. MCIA had a good year ending May 31, 2011.

Grab your boots, make your own luck, and be safe.

Planning for Change



It's been a tough year to make plans. Record setting snow and rain, fluctuating markets and overall change and uncertainty have been affecting everyone involved in agriculture. It is times like these that we hope we have positioned ourselves to respond to whatever challenge presents itself. Each MCIA staff member is taking on new responsibilities, working with new crops and performing additional tasks as the Association responds to new opportunities resulting from the latest industry demands.

At the summer MCIA Board Meeting, the Board took on the challenge of planning and discussed the issues facing MCIA in such an unpredictable industry. It was agreed that for the organization to continue to prosper, the ability to quickly

and effectively respond to new opportunities is vital to the organization. While we can't predict what will happen next, we can prepare the organization in ways that will allow it to respond successfully.

MCIA just completed its fiscal year and we are very satisfied with the results. New programs continue to grow and each year, contribute a greater percentage of the overall revenue of the Association. This diversity of revenue streams has provided greater stability allowing us to limit administrative overhead costs while investing in staff training and improving technological capabilities. The organization is financially strong allowing the Board to add to reserves, after making the basic capital investments needed for continued, effective day to day operations. More challenges certainly lie ahead, but with proper planning and preparation, MCIA will be positioned to continue to serve its clients with high quality, affordable products and services as it has "since 1903".



MCIA Field Supervisors Complete HACCP Food Safety

Jim Boots, Field Supervisor

Recently, MCIA staff members, Brenda Rogers, Kris Folland, and Jim Boots, attended a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) workshop for Feed Safety at the Northern Crops Institute office in Fargo. As part of the on-going staff development plan for future projects, the three field supervisors learned more about the seven principles of HACCP and how they impact food and feed safety.

The 2010 food safety bills HR2749 and S.510 passed last year, require all facilities that deal with human food inputs and/or animal feeds, to conduct a hazard analysis and implement risk-based preventative controls. According to the workshop instructor, all facilities will have 18 months from January 2011 to implement a food/feed safety hazard analysis of their facility.

HACCP plans must include several prerequisites for food safety geared towards controlling possible physical, chemical, and biological contamination. Once the prerequisites are



Photo courtesy of Northern Crops Institute.

MCIA Supervisors, Jim Boots, Kris Folland and Brenda Rogers join others at the HACCP Training in Fargo, ND.

reviewed, any remaining critical control points are identified and procedures are established for critical limits, monitoring, corrective actions, verification and record keeping.

These staff members are now trained to assist you in reviewing your facility/system with an eye towards the critical control points of food safety. Contact your field supervisor or talk to Ben Lang about how MCIA can help you meet these new requirements and keep your customers satisfied.



SAVE THE DATE!
MCIA Annual Meeting ~ January, 10-11, 2012
Shooting Star Casino Hotel, Mahanomen

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MISSION STATEMENT

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association is an organization dedicated to improving the productivity, profitability and competitive position of producers, processors, and distributors of agricultural products by providing services to enable them to provide high-quality products to Minnesota, the United States and the World.

Enhancing Value, Improving Marketability



Since 1903

CALENDAR

July

- 7 U of MN Crop Management Day, Rochester
- 7 U of MN Organic Field Day, Lamberton
- 13 NPSAS Field Day, Estelline, SD
- 15 Soybean pre-harvest inspection applications due
- 21 U of MN Field Day, Crookston
- 20-22 Northern Seed Trade Assn Annual Meeting, Fargo, ND
- 24-27 AOSCA Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO
- 25-27 AgroTech Innovations, Minneapolis
- 27 & 28 U of MN Field School for Ag Professionals Core Principles and Current Research, St. Paul Campus
- 29 NPSAS Field Day, Ruso, ND

August

- 1-3 SWROC University on the Prairie, Lamberton
- 2-4 Farmfest, Redwood Falls County
- 18 SROC Open House, Rosemount
- 22-23 Midwest Specialty Grains Conference, Seattle, WA
- 23 NPSAS Field Day, Beresford, SD