

Magnusson Receives Prestigious Siehl Prize

The 2014 Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture laureates were honored at a ceremony in McNamara Alumni Center on the university campus May 22. Their names were announced as part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Norman Borlaug's birth.

The Siehl Prize was created in the early 1990's by a generous gift from New Ulm-area livestock breeder and businessman Eldon Siehl, a dedicated philanthropist who had a lifelong interest in agricultural systems. Siehl was concerned that people were losing touch with their agrarian roots and wanted his gift to ensure that achievements in agriculture would be recognized and celebrated.

The prize is awarded annually by the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS). Recipients are chosen in three categories: knowledge (teaching, research and outreach); agribusiness; and production agriculture. This year's winners are: Mark Seeley, U of M Climatologist (knowledge); Tom Rosen, Rosen's Diversified Inc., CEO (agribusiness); and Richard Magnusson (production agriculture).

Described as an advocate for farmers and seed producers, Magnusson has dedicated countless hours to a number of organizations. He has worked closely with University of Minnesota Researchers and chaired the Minnesota Turf Seed Council working to improve grass seed production in Northern Minnesota. Magnusson was instrumental in the organization and operation of the RL Growers Cooperative, a grower group



From left, Regent Tom Devine, Richard Magnusson, U of M President Eric Kaler and CFANS Dean Brian Buhr.

producing and marketing turf grass seed products and played an important role in the formation of Northern Excellence, a grower owned seed processing plant.

A member of MCIA for over 25 years, Magnusson was elected to the MCIA Board of Directors and served as President and Treasurer. He is also a member of various commodity groups including both the National and the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers.

The Magnusson family has a long history of farming and seed production in the

Roseau area. Richard started farming while in high school trading his labor for the use of equipment. He attended the University of Minnesota, Crookston and North Dakota State University earning a degree in agronomy. He returned to the family farm and joined a partnership with his father Yvonne and brothers, John and Robert.

Today Richard, in partnership with his nephews Aaron and Matthew, continues to produce a diversified crop mix with an emphasis in seed production.

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Chairman's View

Duane Dahlman, Board Chair

Never Under Estimate a Simple Gesture



Catherine Pulsifer, an inspirational website developer and author of motivational books, was quoted "Never under estimate what a simple gesture can do. It is the little things that you do that make a big difference in other people's lives." This past spring has been a challenge for many of us but what I experienced amongst the neighbors here in Cokato was very encouraging.

Whether it was trying to get our crops planted, tile put in the ground, scraping mud from the seed tubes of the planter, or exchanging seed, the cool wet spring put a damper on fieldwork and our mental attitude. For most of us this was anything but a normal spring. The planting season kept dragging on and on as we would only have a day or two each week to do field work. In reality the crop was put in in the usual number of days but the days were spread out over two months.

What I saw and experienced this spring even more than other years was the willingness of neighbors to help each other when the need arose. It was working together to pull a stuck tractor, giving a ride to the next field or scraping off the mud left behind on the road. These may seem like little acts of kindness, but it made a big difference to the one in need.

Over the years it has been my experience that our own Minnesota

Crop Improvement Association responds in the same manner. Whether it is our own President and CEO, Ben Lang, the office staff, or the field service staff, full-time or part-time, all take ownership of their position in the MCIA. They are willing to go the extra mile if necessary to see the field gets inspected or the necessary paperwork is completed.

It may be something very small but necessary in the eyes of the staff at MCIA, but to the member it probably saved an account. I would encourage all of us as members to do our part and take ownership in getting the paperwork, samples or phone calls completed in an orderly and timely manner so as to make their job easier. This has been a shortfall of mine and I know that I can do a better job to accomplish my portion in a more timely and efficient way. Our staff is willing to work through any situation that may arise but know that they have rules and regulations that need to be followed as well.

Finally I would like to make a plug for all members to consider being a part of the MCIA organization as a board member. As a board member for a little past 5 years now, I have truly enjoyed this opportunity. The meetings can be very busy but the knowledge that each member brings to the table is vital for our organization. It all ties back to the idea that you should never under estimate what you can offer, even the smallest of concepts or ideas can be monumental in the growth and direction of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association.

MDA Guidance - Cover Crop Seed and Mixtures

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has issued clarification on using PVP Title V protected varieties in crop seed mixtures.

The details on how to obtain permission and properly label mixtures can be found in the article titled *Using PVP Title V varieties in mixtures* located on the MCIA website www.mncia.org under "What's New".

In addition, a letter directed to grain handlers, feed mill operators and crop input retailers on the requirements for selling cover crop seed can be found on the MCIA Website.

Contact MCIA or Stephen Malone, MDA Seed Regulatory Supervisor at 651-201-6531 if you have any questions.

Brian Buhr Appointed CFANS Dean

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Karen Hanson has appointed Brian Buhr as dean of CFANS and director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), pending approval by the Board of Regents.



Buhr has been a faculty member in the college since 1992, head of the applied economics department since 2008 and has been interim CFANS dean and director since August 2013. As dean of CFANS, Brian will provide administrative and academic oversight for CFANS and will collaborate broadly to advance the college. As the director of MAES, he will oversee funding for researchers in five U of M colleges focused on cross-disciplinary problem solving, with the goal of improving the lives of Minnesotans.

Bringing New Crops to Agriculture



Incorporating new species into crop production systems can create tremendous value with profound positive impacts for producers, processors and end users. However, few ventures in agriculture rival the challenge of introducing a new crop species. Production research, variety

development, marketing standards and testing protocols for seed and grain, investment in production and processing infrastructure are just some of the obstacles that must be overcome for a new crop introduction to be successful. Despite the challenges, multiple ventures are underway nationally and in Minnesota to bring new crops into agriculture.

At its Annual Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) approved seed certification standards for two new species - hemp and radish. AOSCA standards form the basis for the development of uniform seed certification standards by MCIA and other state seed certifying agencies that assist in the marketing of quality seed products.

The hemp standards were adopted in response to changes in the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill that includes a provision for limited research and production of industrial hemp. AOSCA's standards, based on similar ones administered by the Canadian Seed Growers Association for Canadian hemp production, provide an important part of the overall regulatory requirements for states

where industrial hemp will be grown. The radish standards were adopted in response to the growing demand for radish as a high quality cover crop seed nationwide.

Closer to home, the University of Minnesota is undertaking an effort to develop new crop species. The Forever Green Initiative received legislative funding in the recent session. This support will enable the University to use its genomics and plant breeding capabilities to develop new winter annual and perennial crop species to "enhance yields of our summer-annual crops, enable production of new commodities, enhance our soils and wildlife, and improve our water resources". Food manufacturers and other potential end users of these species have indicated great interest in utilizing these sustainably produced crops in their products.

MCIA has supported crop introductions from public and private sources in a variety of ways. In addition to the development of seed certification standards and programs, MCIA's Foundation Seed division assists in the increase and distribution of parent seed and can identify producers that may partner with developers to produce seed or grain of a new crop. MCIA can also develop customized seed quality assurance and identity preserved grain certification programs tailored to meet the specific needs of a new crop introduction. Supporting innovation in crop production is a role MCIA embraces. We eagerly look forward to supporting agriculture through our unique array of services dedicated to crop improvement as we have since our founding back in 1903.

MCIA Staff Achieves BQMS Auditor Status

On May 13th and 14th, four MCIA staff members attended Biotechnology Quality Management System (BQMS) auditor training. The training was held at MCIA with instructors from the USDA-APHIS-Biotechnology Regulatory Services Office of Compliance Assistance. Ten other individuals from private seed companies also attended the training and were working towards improving internal company audit programs.

BQMS is a voluntary program designed to assist companies in maintaining compliance with the APHIS regulations (7 CFR part 340) for the import, interstate movement, and field release of regulated genetically engineered (GE) organisms.

BQMS supports this compliance by verifying that the seed company has a total management system prepared which assures procedures are in place when handling regulated product. These requirements include quality policies, management commitment, record keeping, employee training, as well as all the steps needed to handle product in a manner that prevents unintended environment release.

MCIA staffers Jody Prudhomme, Seth Dagoberg, Kris Folland and Jim Boots all successfully completed the training, passed the test and are now considered qualified auditors for this program. Request MCIA staff for your external auditors or contact MCIA if you want more information about this program.



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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

- 23-25 Northern Seed Trade Assn Mtg, Omaha, NE
- 23 U of MN Organic Field School, Lamberton
- 30-31 U of MN Ag Professional Field School, St. Paul

August

- 5-7 Farmfest, Gilfillan Estates, Redwood County
- 21 Minnesota State Fair begins
- 21 U of MN Advanced Field Crop Workshop, Crookston

September

- 1 MCIA Office Closed
- 6 Sustainable Farm Assn, Harvest Fest, Duluth
- 15-18 Midwest Specialty Grains Conference & Trade Show, Milwaukee, WI www.grainconference.org
- 20 Celebrate Ag & Food Day (Gopher Football)

November

- 8-11 Western Seed Assn Mtg, Kansas City, MO
- 21 MCIA Board Meeting, St. Paul

See the MCIA website for more upcoming events at www.mncia.org