

Keith Chisholm Receives Achievement in Crop Improvement Award

Keith Chisholm of Gary, Minnesota, a certified seed producer since 1967, was honored by the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association at its annual meeting, on January 10, 2018, with the Achievement in Crop Improvement Award.

Keith has spent a lifetime producing certified seed and seeking ways to diversify his farming and business operation. He has produced a variety of certified seed crops, including wheat, barley, oats, soybeans, and edible beans. In addition to seed, he worked to increase the value of locally grown agricultural products. He has produced and exported food-grade soybeans and even processed, packaged, and sold bird seed. In his long career, Keith built two MCIA-approved conditioning plants. The first, in 1978, was Circle C Seeds, which he later sold. Today, at his Star of the North facility, Keith focuses on cleaning certified seed and processing edible beans. In 1990 he was named a Premier Seedsman by MCIA.

Active in his county crop improvement association, Keith has helped organize the Annual Norman County Crop Show for many years. Keith also served six years on the MCIA Board of Directors and on other MCIA committees. An avid traveler, he has visited more than 100 countries. He has made several trips to help develop markets for Minnesota-grown agricultural products.



The Achievement in Crop Improvement Award was accepted on behalf of Keith Chisholm by Emil Waskow.

Keith grew up on a dairy and crop farm that has been recognized as a Minnesota Century Farm. He attended Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston and after graduating in 1955 he returned and began farming with his brothers. In 2005 Keith was recognized by the Northwest School of



Keith Chisholm, Achievement in Crop Improvement Award recipient, evaluates a seed sample at his facility in Gary, Minnesota.

Agriculture Alumni Association as a “Top Aggie,” the organization’s highest recognition. He is a veteran of the U.S. military and a member of the local VFW and American Legion organizations. Active in his community, Keith was a member of the local school board for 15 years, including service as board chairman.

A man who is always thinking, Keith concluded in 2003 that farmers using Roundup Ready soybeans should switch to a different herbicide chemistry or other mode of action, “every other year, so they don’t get the weed resistance to it.”

Even after over 60 years in the business, Keith Chisholm continues to farm and produce seed. He says, “It is better to wear out than rust out.”

MCIA has presented its highest honor annually for nearly 50 years to recognize exemplary service to the seed industry as well as outstanding leadership in agriculture and the local community. The award is sponsored and was presented by the *Farmer* magazine.

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Members attending the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association’s 115th Annual Meeting, held January 10, 2018 at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls, discussed seed industry issues and recognized the achievements of their peers.

MCIA Presents Premier and Honorary Premier Seedsman Awards

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, held on January 10 at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls, the following individuals were honored: recognized as Premier Seedsman were Brent Benike, Perry Ellingson, and Brent and Bryant Haugrud; Dr. James Anderson was named Honorary Premier Seedsman.

Brent Benike, Birchdale, has been involved in the certified seed industry all of his life. As a young boy, his family lived near Potsdam in southeast Minnesota. His father, Milton, grew seed oats and soybeans for Meyer's Seed of Elgin. At the age of 11 the family moved to a farm near Birchdale, in far northern Minnesota, where his father continued seed production.

Brent studied agronomy and soils at the University of Minnesota at Crookston and Saint Paul. While attending school, Brent worked part-time in the MCIA seed lab and worked as a field inspector in northwestern Minnesota.

Brent honed his skills early in his adult career as the area production manager in hybrid seed corn for Garst Seed Co in the Dassel/Cokato area, and as an agronomist for Interstate Payco Seed Co.

Brent is currently the general manager at Northern Excellence Seed LLC and Northern Farmers Co-op Exchange. At Northern Excellence, an MCIA-approved facility, Brent wears many hats, contracting for the production and sales of turf grass seed, and serving as agronomist and seed conditioning expert. Well respected by growers for his commitment and straightforward approach, cooperators say Brent has been a key to the success of Northern Excellence.

Brent also farms with his brothers, Ross and Kent, as part of Benike Farms, Inc. Over the years they have produced a variety of crops. Today, perennial ryegrass, soybeans, and wheat are the primary crops. In 2013, Benike Farms was recognized as County Farm Family of the Year by the University of Minnesota Extension.

Brent has been a long-time member and supporter of MCIA, serving on the MCIA Board of Directors for six years. He has also participated on the MCIA Executive Search, Approved Facilities, and Agronomic Standards



Brent Benike

The Premier Seedsman Award has been presented annually since 1929 to recognize individuals or partners involved in quality seed production, active in the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, and who provide excellent service to the seed industry.



Perry Ellingson

committees. Brent is a Minnesota Turf Seed Council Board Member and a member of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. ■

Perry Ellingson, Borup, has proudly lived on a family farm in Minnesota's Red River Valley all of his life. A certified seed grower and member of MCIA for over 30 years, Perry takes great pride in producing high quality seed.

In the early days, the farm included milk cows and hogs, but eventually transitioned to all crops. He and his father got into seed production after visiting with MCIA field supervisor Jerry Herman. They first grew seed for Keith Chisholm of Gary. For the last twenty-plus years Perry has had a great working relationship with Petermann Seeds of Hawley, growing primarily wheat seed and food grade beans.

Perry is a graduate of Borup High School and the Moorhead Area Technical Institute. Over the years, he has been active in a number of ag-related entities. He served on the Norman County Crop Improvement Board and participated as a cooperative grower of research plots for Betaseed Inc. He has also been involved with the Perley Community Co-op Board for over 30 years, the Norman County Agricultural Society for over 25 years, as well as the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association.

Perry and his wife, Kathleen (Kitty), received the Red River Valley Development Association's Valley Farmer and Homemaker Award and Perry was recognized by the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs as the "Fair Person of the Year" for District 9.

An ardent supporter of 4-H and the county fair, he would raise a few hogs, which become 4-H projects for local youth as well as his grandchildren.

Perry's family have all been very involved in the Ellingson farming operation. Perry and Kitty enjoyed the opportunity to share their farming experience with their grandchildren.

Recently retired from farming, Perry continues to lend a hand to neighbors during the busy planting and harvest seasons. He also restores old tractors. ■

Brent and Bryant Haugrud, of Rothsay, cannot remember a time when they were not working on the farm. The Haugrud farm has been producing certified seed for nearly 60 years. The brothers continue to be inspired by their parents, Harlan and Helen Ann, who taught them the importance of family, the meaning of hard work, striving for perfection, and the value of good quality seed.

Haugrud Seed was truly a family operation. During seed conditioning you could find the whole family working together to bag, sew, and stack pallets of Certified seed. The boys worked closely with both parents, learning the intricacies of growing seed, operating an MCIA-approved seed cleaning plant, and running a business. The family has produced Foundation, Registered, or Certified seed in some form, every year.



Brent Haugrud

As a boy, Brent took an interest in how things work and serves as the primary mechanic/engineer on the farm. Adept at diagnosing and identifying problems with equipment, he takes pride in being able to make repairs on much of their farm machinery. To avoid delays he is also able to make parts in their shop, make improvements, and even build their own equipment.

Bryant is more involved in the seed business. He learned the importance of keeping good records, having worked closely with his mother to handle the bookkeeping and paperwork. Producing a high-quality seed product continues to be of great importance to Bryant. He also enjoys the opportunity to visit with customers. His father stressed the importance of taking time to listen and Bryant believes it helps build relationships with the customers.

Brent and Bryant have been involved in a number of farm-related concerns, as well as their family business. Brent is a member of the Minnesota Soybean Growers and the Minnesota Wheat Growers. Bryant serves on the MCIA Foundation Seed Committee and has worked with the Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative. Both are members of the Wilkin County Crop Improvement Association.

As their children become more involved in Haugrud Seed they will continue to be a business built on honesty and integrity. ■



Bryant Haugrud

The Honorary Premier Seedsman Award presented annually since 1930 recognizes individuals not directly involved in the seed industry but who have actively supported the seed industry, the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, and their local community.



Dr. James Anderson

Dr. James Anderson, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, is a quiet, gifted, and focused plant breeder. The efforts of Dr. Anderson and a team of researchers has resulted in the release of numerous wheat varieties, including Linkert, which in 2017 was the most widely grown variety in Minnesota.

Growing up on a small dairy farm near St. Peter, Jim Anderson participated in 4-H and FFA like many kids in rural Minnesota. He attended the University of Minnesota, majoring in agronomy. There, he first glimpsed his future when he took a plant breeding class led by Dr. Jim Orf. Anderson did his graduate study at the University of Kentucky and then went on to Cornell University for a PhD in plant breeding.

Dr. Anderson has served as a wheat breeder at the University of Minnesota since 1998. His plant breeding and research responsibilities have expanded recently to include intermediate wheatgrass and field pennycress.

In addition to Minnesota, Dr. Anderson has led wheat-breeding programs in winter wheat in North Dakota and Washington. A recognized expert in plant genetics, he has worked cooperatively with wheat researchers worldwide. His research team at the University of Minnesota was the first to genetically map the location of a gene that provides resistance to wheat scab. He is an advisor and mentor to graduate students and has reviewed numerous scientific publications over the years.

Recognized for his efforts in both the classroom and the field, Dr. Anderson has been honored with the University of Minnesota Star Faculty Award. He is also a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America.

A regular presenter at field days, small grain updates, and other grower meetings, Anderson is well known to farmers and seed producers. A strong supporter of MCIA, he has collaborated closely with the Foundation Seed program, served on the Agronomic Standards Committee, and has been a guest speaker at our annual meeting.

What keeps him motivated is the process of seeking improvement in wheat genetics, implementing those findings, and the satisfaction that comes when a new variety is successful.

Dr. Anderson greatly appreciates the support of the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers and the producers that provide on-farm test sites. ■

MCIA Board of Directors Election Results

At the 115th MCIA Annual Meeting, convened in Fergus Falls on January 10, 2018, Denise Thiede, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture, and Nat Forster, Remington Seeds, were newly elected to the MCIA Board. Thiede represents Related Industry and Forster, District 3. Kurt Flegel, District 3 and Nancy Elhke, University of Minnesota, were reelected. A complete list of current board members follows:

OFFICERS

Kurt Flegel, Benson, Chairman
Bob Ehlers, Barrett, Vice Chairman
Duane Dahlman, Cokato, Secretary
Darius Thiel, Wendell, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Matt Bohn, Breckenridge; Nancy Jo Elhke, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul; Nat Forster, Hastings; Scott Habstritt, Roseau; Jim Kukowski, Strathcona; Mory Rugg, Sabin; Denise Thiede, Saint Paul

Flegel Elected Board Chair

Kurt Flegel was born and raised in Kulm, North Dakota, on a beef, dairy, and small-grain farm. He graduated from North Dakota State University with a BS in agricultural economics and minors in business and animal science.

Kurt's career began with Stauffer Seeds, Inc. in Fargo, North Dakota. He is currently the plant manager of the Syngenta Seeds production plant in Danvers, Minnesota. He was extensively involved with the sunflower program there, including research, parent seed production and conditioning, OECD certification, and seed export. The Danvers plant is now dedicated to soybean production, conditioning, and shipping, which Kurt is responsible for since starting soybeans at the plant in 1987.

Kurt has served on the MCIA Board of Directors and on the Approved Facilities Committee for the past 3 years.

Forster and Thiede Join Board

Nat Forster graduated from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, with a bachelor's degree in agronomy. Following his graduation, Nat was hired by Mycogen Seeds. He worked mainly on soybean seed production at their plant in Hastings. In 2002 the plant was purchased by Remington Seeds and Nat was hired by the new owner. Since 2014, Nat has been location manager of the site, which is now focused on seed corn production. Over the years, Nat has worked with MCIA on the seed corn certification process. He has served on MCIA's Agronomic Standards Committee since 2015.

Denise Thiede earned her PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology from Michigan State University. A Minnesota native, she currently oversees the Seed Regulatory and Biotechnology programs at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Denise has a strong background in seed testing, having spent 15 years with Eurofins BioDiagnostics in River Falls, Wisconsin, providing testing services to a wide range of seed companies. She is also familiar with seed certification, having collaborated with MCIA during her time at Eurofins BioDiagnostics.

Official Minutes of the 2018 Annual Business Meeting

Chairman Michael Zabel called the 115th annual meeting of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association to order at 11:04 a.m. on

January 10, 2018 at Bigwood Event Center, Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Zabel appointed Fawad Shah as parliamentarian.

Zabel recognized and thanked the following meeting sponsors and exhibitors: Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council; Running Wealth Management Group, Inc.; Agassiz Seed & Supply; Albert Lea Seed House, Inc.; Bjerke Brothers; Bratney Companies; El Dorado Packaging, Inc.; Gateway Building Systems, Inc.; Hemp Solutions of Minnesota; Limagrain Cereal Seeds; Minnesota Corn Growers Association; Monsanto Company; Profile Industries; Richland IFC, Inc.; SDSU Seed Testing Lab; Soyko International; the *Farmer* magazine; and the University of Minnesota.

Zabel confirmed that proper proof of notice of the meeting had been published in the winter 2017 issue of the *Minnesota Seed Grower* and determined that a quorum was present. Zabel introduced the MCIA Board of Directors to the membership.

The following agenda items were addressed:

- Secretary's Report and Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting—Richard Magnusson moved, Jim Falk seconded that the minutes, as published in the spring 2017 issue of the *Minnesota Seed Grower*, be approved. Motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report—Zabel indicated a Statement of Activities and Financial Position for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2017 was included in the meeting registration packet. The board accepted the report at its November 2017 meeting.
- Chairman's Report—Chairman Zabel's full report can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.
- Nominating Committee Report—Zabel presented the following slate of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee: District 3—Kurt Flegel, Benson; District 3—Nat Forster, Hastings; and Related Industry—Denise Thiede, Seed Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Dr. Brian Buhr, Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, nominated Dr. Nancy Elhke for the Category B position. Zabel then called for nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, R. Magnusson moved, M. Rugg seconded to cast a unanimous ballot and accept the nominees presented. Motion passed.
- President's Report—Dr. Fawad Shah reported: MCIA had positive financial results for the fiscal year that ended May 31, 2017; the seed laboratory completed one year since its reopening without any major issues, and the new logo and tagline have been in use since January 2017. MCIA performed field inspections and completed seed certification on industrial hemp. Craig Thelander, Brenda Rogers, and Jim Boots, three long-time staff members, retired. Succession planning continues to be a top priority for the organization. The Organic Services division is working on database enhancements to improve efficiencies and tracking of information. MCIA hosted 'no-harassment' training for all its staff. All position descriptions were reviewed for compliance to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). MCIA instituted a 'Safety Program' to insure safety for all staff. A new area of focus is Capacity Building in developing nations, as countries such as Cameroon, Somalia, and Pakistan have expressed interest in getting training for their field and lab staff, as well as getting help establishing or strengthening their seed certification systems. For the first time in MCIA history, MCIA plans to contribute to the University of Minnesota by teaching a Seed Science class during the fall of 2018. Other areas of focus will be: developing new services to support customer needs, developing work instructions for lab processes, and promoting MCIA program and certified products to international markets.

Zabel then called for other business. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Annual Meeting Chairman's Report



This past year was yet another pivotal year for MCIAB. While continuing to expand its organic program with an increasing number of clients, MCIAB also developed the first certification standards in Minnesota history for a new crop—industrial hemp. The Seed Laboratory also saw its first complete year of service to its clients, along with upgrades in lab equipment—the largest investment

being a new walk-in seed germinator. Another major project being worked on, behind the scenes, is an overhaul/upgrade of the Pure Harvest database, which the organization has been using for a number of years for our seed testing and certification services. When completed and fully implemented, this new database will encompass the organic program and significantly improve efficiencies at MCIAB, while streamlining the data entry interaction between clients and the agency.

All these advances occurred while MCIAB saw changes in its personnel, replacing several retiring, long-term, key employees with new and additional staff members.

As we—and by this, I mean all of you, the members, the directors, and most importantly, the employees—continue to guide the future of this organization, I thought it might be interesting to understand where MCIAB ranks among its peers in the United States. I asked our CEO, Mr. Shah, to look into the numbers for me, and he reported back the following information from AOSCA.

Among all of the certifying agencies in the country—whether independent, like MCIAB, or under a state university or state department of agriculture—Minnesota's MCIAB ranks third in terms of the number of acres it certifies. This is no easy accomplishment, given that we are competing with some very large agricultural states, such as California, North Dakota, and Oregon. But, when it comes to stand-alone certifying agencies like MCIAB, we are in first place in terms of the number of acres we have under our belt, so to speak.

On average, MCIAB has been inspecting about 225,000 acres per year. But this number is increasing. As recently as 2015, a banner year for MCIAB, inspected acres totaled nearly 300,000 (~294,000) acres, and in 2016 the number of acres reached approximately 284,000.

By the numbers, one must conclude that MCIAB is clearly a leader in its industry. But, what is it that puts MCIAB in this position? Is it simply the volume of acres that are being certified? Perhaps. But I believe that it is more than just numbers. I believe that for MCIAB to attain the numbers of acres and members it has, it must be providing a level of service that exceeds expectations.

While attending the MCIAB Annual meeting in Fergus Falls, in January, I had the opportunity to visit with seed producers from throughout the state. It was evident that those members in attendance were accustomed to a high level of service from MCIAB, and they came to participate in this annual meeting and to provide input so that the level of service they've come to expect continues.

That level of service is firmly rooted in its members, without whom MCIAB would not exist. But beyond that, being an industry-leading organization demands a team of dedicated employees who are not only willing to garner, but to retain the confidence of its members.

During my tenure as a director, and now, departing as chairman, I have come to understand that for MCIAB to not only continue, but to increase its prominence in the industry, we need to ensure that our employees continue to be commensurate with an industry-leading organization. It also means that we need to continue to invest in the tools and technology that our employees work with on a daily basis.

For more than a century, the cumulative investment made by members through the use of the services offered by MCIAB has been great. And as it continues to expand its industry-leading role with new programs and an increasing membership base, I cannot help but think that MCIAB will be number one, no matter what statistic you examine.

*Mike Zabel, Chairman
MCIAB Board of Directors*



Speaking at MCIAB's 115th Annual Meeting: Kurt Flegel, Chairman-elect, MCIAB Board of Directors; Dr. Dennis Thompson, University of Illinois; Dr. David Mulla, University of Minnesota; Denise Thiede, Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Seed Laboratory Update

NEW GERMINATOR

Our new walk-in germinator has been operational since December. This germinator is a great improvement over what we previously used, which was essentially a room with a heat source. Since a goal of the laboratory is to become accredited, we need a germinator that can maintain a temperature within one degree Celsius. This was not possible with the old system. We now have higher capacity with better control, which is necessary during peak germination testing of soybeans and corn. In addition, we have added LED lights, which provide excellent seedling growth when conducting sand tests.

CLEANING FEE

Some customers have asked about our cleaning fee. There are several tests that require pure seed units (those that are not broken, empty, chaffy, etc.) For example, seed counts must be conducted with pure seed units. If a purity exam is not requested, as is the case with preliminary samples, the laboratory must go through a 500-gram sample and remove broken seeds, splits, and seed coats. Another example is germination updates on oats and perennial ryegrass. In this case, we

examine seeds before planting to assure that we are not planting “empties.”

PALMER AMARANTH

As a reminder, MCIA will not certify seed lots with pigweed seed (*Amaranthus* spp.) unless the seed has been genetically tested to verify that it is not Palmer amaranth. We will automatically send out any pigweed seeds we find during our examination for ID testing. You will be billed for this service as part of your testing fees. In the case of outsourced testing of natives, we have asked the labs to send the pigweed seeds to us and we will send out for testing, so that we receive the results and can then complete certification if appropriate.

RUSH SERVICE

As planting season approaches, keep the rush option in mind. By adding a rush fee to your order, you are assured that your sample will be planted the day it arrives, and preliminary purity results will be expedited as well. SDSU will also turn around electrophoresis testing quickly. In some cases, electrophoresis is the last test result needed before we complete



Registered Seed Technologist Chase Mowry loading the seed laboratory's new germinator.

certification, and a rush fee may avoid a wait for those results.

Jim Boots Walks Off into the Sunset

Jim Boots, MCIA Field Supervisor since 1990, retired in January, 2018. You could say Jim wore out his last pair of boots as he literally walked from border to border and back again inspecting fields. Throughout his career he has walked thousands of acres of soybean, oats, corn, wheat, and native species, all across southern Minnesota. He has crawled through seed plants large and small, checking to see if those facilities met MCIA requirements for seed certification.

A graduate from South Dakota State University (SDSU) with a degree in agronomy, Jim became familiar with seed while working as a student in the SDSU seed lab. He returned home to work in partnership with his father on their dairy and crop farm. In 1983, prior to becoming a full-time employee, Jim worked for MCIA as a part-time field inspector.

In addition to being a field supervisor, Jim also served as the manager of Special Services. In that role Jim worked to help expand the services that MCIA offers, including the quality assurance and identity preserved programs for seed and grain. He worked diligently to help develop the native seed and forage and mulch programs. Jim met regularly with seed companies and food-grade soybean producers to develop customized programs to meet their needs.

In retirement, we may call on Jim to help out MCIA now and then, but he has plenty of other activities to keep him busy. He



Jim and Karen Boots

currently serves on the Redwood Valley School Board and as president of the Redwood Area Concert Association.

He also continues to farm the home place and may even grow some seed. Whatever he finds himself doing, Jim will do it with a sense of purpose, just like he did when he walked the fields for MCIA.

Good luck and happy retirement, Jim!



The world's population continues to grow, increasing the demand for basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter. These needs are largely fulfilled by the agricultural industry. Seed, as the fundamental basis of agriculture, begins the cycle of growth and sustains life on this planet. The U.S. seed industry contributes to agriculture's global success through the production of high quality seed, which is disseminated around the world.

nated around the world.

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association promotes the development of new crop varieties by serving as the licensing agent of the University of Minnesota. In addition, MCIA, along with 26 other U.S. seed certifying agencies, participates in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes.

The OECD Seed Schemes are rules used by a network of countries that work together to facilitate the trade of high quality seed. Currently, 59 countries participate in the program.

MCIA works closely with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, the OECD's designated national authority for the United States. As an

official agency, MCIA provides input in the development of new policies that facilitate the seed trade internationally and promote the seed trade in European markets and in OECD Seed Schemes' member countries. Minnesota ranks among the top five seed producing states under the OECD Seed Schemes, exporting seed of perennial ryegrass and soybeans, as well as limited quantities of corn and sunflower.

Seed companies and public institutions expend substantial resources to develop new and better crop varieties. Often, initial seed quantities of new varieties are very limited. To bring a new seed variety to market faster, companies will often send their seed to another country that has more favorable growing conditions and that participates in the OECD Seed Schemes. For example, during winter in Minnesota, a newly-developed variety could be sent to a temperate environment elsewhere for more seed to be produced. The seed increase is brought back to Minnesota and the developer will have saved one growing season of time.

The OECD Seed Schemes benefit U.S. seed companies and farmers by offering them access to foreign seed markets. MCIA is proud to partner with our stakeholders by providing seed certification services that facilitate international seed trade and keep Minnesota's economy growing.

For more information on the OECD Seed Schemes, visit:

<http://www.oecd.org/tad/code/oecdseedschemesrulesandregulations.htm>



Organic Corner

**Michelle Menken,
Organic Services Manager**

The bright blue skies and sunny weather here are making me think of spring even with all the snow on the ground.

The 2018 crop renewal applications are all out in the mail now.

If you were newly certified in 2017, you will be receiving a copy of your 2017 Organic System Plan (OSP) with a new signature page. For everybody else, we typed in your OSP from the 2017 OSP.

We have saved all these OSPs so that each year we can just print and mail them out. We hope that this will save you and us much time in the future. We have sent a few to clients

via e-mail to see how easy they are to complete and modify electronically.

The vegetable applications are due April 1, the crop applications are due April 20, and the livestock applications are due May 15. The green cover letter in your renewal packet will explain what has to be returned to us. Each number has a check box to use as you complete the forms. Complete and signed forms help speed the process of review and assignment to inspectors. We will be working with some new inspectors this year.

If you can't meet the deadlines above, due to incomplete paperwork or payments, please call the office and we will make arrangements.



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- Nat ForsterDirector
- Scott HabstrittDirector
- Jim KukowskiDirector
- Mory RuggDirector
- Denise ThiedeDirector

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.

Improving your process • Enhancing your products • Increasing your profits

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 4–5** Northern AOSCA Regional Meeting,
Madison, WI

MAY–AUGUST

Iowa State University—
Seed Conditioning Workshops
Register by phone: 515-294-4011
or online: www.seedlab.iastate.edu/training

JUNE

- 9–13** ASTA Policy & Leadership Development
Convention, Washington, DC
- 24–27** AOSCA Annual Meeting,
Atlanta, GA

**For more information on these and
other events visit www.mncia.org.**