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Minnesota Crop Improvement Association Announces 117th Annual Meeting

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA, December 2, 2019 The Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) will convene its 117th annual meeting on January 8, 2020. The meeting, which all MCIA members are encouraged to attend, will be held at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Along with MCIA's annual business meeting, the agenda will include an industry trade show and an awards luncheon. The awards luncheon includes presentation of the Premier and Honorary Premier Seedsmen awards and the Achievement in Crop Improvement Award. An informative program is planned for seed producers, conditioners, and representatives from agricultural industries. Roger Wippler, MCIA Foundation Seed Services Manager, who has attended many annual meetings over the years, describes the event as, "an excellent opportunity for seed producers and processors from around the state to meet and learn from one another and hear the latest from industry experts."

Program Topics and Guest Speakers

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture—Whitney Place, Assistant Commissioner, will report on activities of the Department of Agriculture.
- Research and Development—Colin Cureton, of the University of Minnesota's Forever Green Initiative, will present on efforts to develop the supply chain for Kernza, a perennial intermediate wheatgrass.
- Seed Industry—David Bonnet, Lead, BASF Wheat Breeding Program, North America, will provide insights into the BASF hybrid wheat breeding program.
- Cover Crop Seed—A roundtable discussion, facilitated by MCIA, will explore education and enforcement issues related to cover crops and legal seed usage. Expert panelists will include Ernest Allen, USDA Seed Regulatory and Testing Division; Mark Henry, Rose Law Firm and Farmers Yield Initiative; Carissa Spencer, USDA-NRCS; Ken Bertsch, North Dakota State Seed Department; Neal Foster, South Dakota Crop Improvement Association; and Denise Thiede, Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Evening Reception

MCIA invites early arrivals to a reception the evening before the meeting. The reception will be located in a room adjacent to the trade show area. Association members will be joined at the evening reception by MCIA board members, field supervisors, and administrative staff.

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Since 1903, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) has provided programs and services to meet the needs of an ever-changing agricultural world. These services include seed certification, organic certification, foundation seed production, and a variety of customized third-party verification programs for seed and identity-preserved grains. MCIA operates from facilities on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus with field staff located throughout Minnesota.

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If you would like more information on this topic please contact Roger Wippler at 612-625-7766 or wippl002@umn.edu.