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**Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
Presents Honorary Premier Seed Grower Award to Kris Folland**

ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA, January 24, 2024 The Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) today recognized MCIA Field Services Manager Kris Folland with the Honorary Premier Seed Grower Award. The award, presented annually since 1930, recognizes individuals not directly involved in seed production but who have actively supported the seed industry, MCIA, and their local community.

The award was presented at the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association's 121st Annual Meeting. The event was held at the Holiday Inn and Suites in St. Cloud, Minnesota, January 24, 2024.

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Kris Folland was born and raised in Kittson County, Minnesota, near the towns of Karlstad and Halma. Growing up near the family farm, he was active on the farm, in 4-H, and all outdoor activities. During high school he enjoyed football, raising beef cattle, and the outdoors. After graduation he attended the University of Minnesota Crookston and graduated with a degree in agronomy.

After college, Kris worked in the grain and elevator business for 5 years. His employment with MCIA began in 2006 as a field supervisor, managing seed certification and seed production for northern Minnesota. For the past 17 years, he has been busy working with the many programs and services that MCIA offers. In 2019, he was promoted to manager of Field Services.

While continuing to conduct day-to-day field tasks, he now manages and develops programs and standards, along with his co-workers. During the summer, Kris inspects certified seed fields and manages the part-time field inspection staff. In winter, he is busy inspecting seed conditioning facilities and bulk seed handlers. Kris has worked with all facets of MCIA's processes and procedures, program reviews and development, and standards. His successful efforts to develop new business relationships have been a key to MCIA's growth.

Kris and his wife, Bethany, have been married for 21 years and have four children. The oldest two are in college and the younger two are in high school. Kris and Bethany have been side-by-side farming, ranching, and working since they met in college.

Kris is a Certified Crop Advisor. He also serves, or has served, on many local, regional, and state boards and committees, including Kittson County 4-H, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, Kittson County Extension, Lake Bronson Farmers Union Oil Coop, Northern Crops Institute, Minnesota Turf Seed Council, Kittson County FSA, and others. He is also honored to be a Farm Rescue volunteer many times.

Kris and Bethany have been honored as Minnesota SWCD State Conservationists for Kittson County. They were also selected as Emerging Leaders for Kittson County and were honored to be the first farm in the area to be a Minnesota Water Quality-certified (MAWQCP) farm.

Upon receiving the Honorary Premier Seed Grower Award, Kris remarked, "It is an honor to be recognized by MCIA. I have been fortunate to work with outstanding people in the seed industry and especially the seed producers of Minnesota."

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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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For more information on this topic, please contact Fawad Shah at 612-625-7766 or fawad.shah@mncia.org.