

Improving your process · Enhancing your products · Increasing your profits

JANUARY

- 15-19** Small Grains Updates, various locations
- 24-25** Minnesota Ag Expo, Mankato
- 25-27** NPSAS Winter Conference, Aberdeen, SD
- 26-27** Emerging Farmers Conference, St. Paul
- 31** Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research, Grand Forks, ND

FEBRUARY

- 1** Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research, Moorhead
- 2-3** Organic Vegetable Production Conference, Madison, WI
- 10** SFA Annual Conference, St. Joseph
- 14-15** SFA Midwest Soil Health Summit, Fergus Falls
- 19** MCIA Office Closed
- 21-22** International Crop Expo, Grand Forks, ND
- 22-24** MOSES Organic Farming Conference, La Crosse, WI

Foundation Seed Orders

We are currently accepting orders for Foundation seed on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you have not already placed a seed order, please do so as soon as possible for best availability.

A confirmation order form will be mailed to members later this month.

REMINDER: UMN Wheat Sales to Canada Not Allowed!

At this time *no* University of Minnesota wheat varieties are licensed for sales into Canada. This includes Bolles, Linkert, Shelly, Rollag, and Lang-MN.

The following awards were presented at MCIA's Annual Meeting in Fergus Falls Minnesota, January 10, 2018.

Achievement in Crop Improvement Award

Keith Chisholm, of Gary, has spent a lifetime producing Certified seed and seeking ways to diversify his farming and business operation. In his career he has built two MCIA Approved Seed Conditioning Plants. At his current facility, Star of the North, he conditions certified seed and processes edible beans. A past MCIA board member, Keith has also been active in a number of local organizations, including over 40 years as part of the Norman County Crop Improvement and their Annual Crop show.

Premier and Honorary Premier Seedsman Awards

Brent Benike, of Birchdale, has been involved in the certified seed industry all of his life. Brent is currently the general manager at Northern Excellence Seed LLC, a producer and marketer of turf grass seed. Brent also farms with his brothers, Ross and Kent, as Benike Farms, Inc. Brent has been a longtime member and supporter of MCIA. He served on the MCIA Board of Directors for six years.

Perry Ellingson, of Borup, has lived on his family's farm in Minnesota's Red River Valley his entire life. Ellingson has been a certified seed grower and member of MCIA for over 30 years. Recently retired from farming, Perry remains very involved in agriculture, lending a hand during the planting and harvest seasons, and restoring vintage tractors. He is also an ardent supporter of 4-H and the county fair.

Brent and Bryant Haugrud, of Rothsay, were raised on the Haugrud farm, which has been producing Certified seed for nearly 60 years. Brent is the primary mechanic and engineer on the farm. Bryant is more involved in the seed business. Haugrud's have cooperated with MCIA to produce Foundation seed for many years and Bryant serves on the MCIA Foundation Seed Committee.

Dr. James Anderson, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, received the Honorary Premier Seedsman award. The efforts of Dr. Anderson and a team of university researchers has resulted in the release of numerous wheat varieties, including Linkert, the most widely grown variety in Minnesota in 2017. Dr. Anderson is an internationally recognized expert in plant genetics, a regular presenter at regional grower meetings, and a strong supporter of MCIA.

Main Office: 1900 Hendon Ave, Saint Paul MN 55108
Tel: 612-625-7766
Toll-free: 800-510-6242
Fax: 612-625-3748
E-mail: mncia@mncia.org
Website: www.mncia.org

Field Supervisors:
Seth Dagoberg, Richville · seth.dagoberg@mncia.org · 218-556-3170
Kris Folland, Halma · kfolland@wiktel.com · 218-791-2156
Lucas Wertish, Mankato · lucas.wertish@mncia.org · 320-522-0172

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Certification Services
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