

Improving your process · Enhancing your products · Increasing your profits

JANUARY

- 21 Small Grains Update Meeting, Morris
- 21 MCIA Office Closed
- 23–24 Minnesota Ag Expo, Mankato
- 24–26 NPSAS Food & Farming Conference, Fargo, ND
- 25–26 Emerging Farmers Conference, St. Paul

FEBRUARY

- 1–2 Organic Vegetable Production Conference, Madison, WI
- 9 SFA Annual Conference, St. Joseph
- 14–15 Best of the Best in Wheat Research and Marketing, Grand Forks, ND (2/14) and Moorhead, MN (2/15)
- 20–21 International Crop Expo, Grand Forks, ND
- 21–23 MOSES Organic Farming Conference, La Crosse, WI

Seed Lab Update

Variety verification of wheat and oat samples is now done with an HPLC test rather than electrophoresis. This change was effective January 1. High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) provides a more accurate molecular analysis than electrophoresis and should have a faster turn-around time. The cost of an HPLC test is the same as electrophoresis. We are in the process of updating our Sample Report form to include HPLC. In the meantime, members may continue to mark electrophoresis on Sample Reports, knowing that an HPLC test will be conducted instead.

REMINDER: MCIA Seed Certification Handbook Updated

The MCIA *Seed Certification Handbook* has been updated and is available online at mncia.org. See “What’s New?” on the home page. The *Handbook* covers topics related to seed certification, from field inspection and seed conditioning to labeling and everything in between. MCIA field supervisors will be distributing copies of the *Handbook* when they inspect facilities this winter. Copies will be mailed to MCIA members later this year. Copies are also available upon request from the MCIA office.

The following awards were presented at MCIA’s Annual Meeting in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, January 9, 2019.

Achievement in Crop Improvement Award

Jim Falk, of Murdock, was recognized with the Achievement in Crop Improvement for his dedication to MCIA and the production of high quality ag products. A member of MCIA since 1983, Falk’s Seed Farm, Inc. grows and conditions certified wheat, oat, and soybean seed. A diversified operation, they also contract and process food-grade soybeans for export and package high quality feed oats. Their MCIA-approved facility is state of the art with the latest technology. Jim has been an active MCIA member serving on various committees and utilizing many MCIA programs. He is also involved in other state and local organizations.

Premier and Honorary Seedsman Awards

Dan Nietfeld, of Melrose, has a passion for hybrid seed corn. You could say Dan grew up in a corn field as he is the third generation to own and operate Nietfeld Seed. In addition to producing hybrids for the family seed business, he also does breeding to develop his own inbred lines. Away from the corn field, Dan has been involved in competitive plowing, participating in state and national and international plowing contests.

John Walkup, of Campbell, has been producing certified seed on his grain and livestock farm in southwest Otter Tail County since 1980. He continues to produce certified wheat seed in addition to other crops. Described as a terrific friend of the University of Minnesota Extension, John’s farm has been a site for university small grain test plots for many years. He is also an active and longtime member of the West Otter Tail Crop Improvement Association.

Bruce Abbe, of the Midwest Shippers Association (MSA), received the Honorary Premier Seedsman award. For over 11 years Bruce has been president/CEO of MSA, where he has joined with farmers, processors, and exporters to raise awareness and improve transportation options for specialty ag products from this region. He has worked closely with MCIA, serving on MCIA advisory committees and offering insight into the specialty grains industry.

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