

Improving your process · Enhancing your products · Increasing your profits

## JANUARY

- 20 MCIA Office Closed
- 22–23 Minnesota Ag Expo, Mankato
- 23–26 NPSAS Food & Farming Conference, Fargo, ND
- 24–25 Emerging Farmers Conference, St. Paul
- 31 Organic Vegetable Production Conference, Madison, WI (through February 1)

## FEBRUARY

- 5–14 Best of the Best in Wheat Research and Marketing: Grand Forks, ND (2/5), Moorhead, MN (2/6), Williston, ND (2/13), Minot, ND (2/14)
- 8 SFA Annual Conference, St. Joseph
- 19–20 International Crop Expo, Grand Forks, ND
- 27–29 MOSES Organic Farming Conference, La Crosse, WI

### Seed Lab Update

Given the tough conditions during harvest this past year, seed producers may want to consider a preliminary germination test before conditioning. If you had concerns about scab or sprout damage in your wheat or wet soybeans at harvest, a lab test will help assess seed quality and identify potential problem lots. Plus, when your seed testing is done early you will be ready when it is time to move your seed. If you have questions or need sample bags or sampling reports, contact MCIA.

### The following awards were presented at MCIA's Annual Meeting in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, January 8, 2020.

#### Achievement in Crop Improvement Award

Kevin, Duane and Craig Dahlman of **Dahlco Seeds**, Cokato were recognized with the Achievement in Crop Improvement award. They are the third generation of the Dahlman family to operate the seed business, which began in 1922. The brothers grew up producing seed and have been owner-operators since the mid-1980s. Today they concentrate on producing, conditioning, and packaging a wide variety of traited and conventional hybrid seed corn for the wholesale market.

The brothers have served various ag organizations including MCIA, the Independent Professional Seedsman Association, and the Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District. They have also dedicated time to 4H and FFA, as well as school and church-based activities.

#### Premier and Honorary Premier Seedsman Awards

**Darius Thiel**, of Wendell, enjoys producing and cleaning seed. For over 35 years he has operated the seed conditioning facility on the family farm. Darius grew up in the seed business begun by his father and grandfather. Today he produces primarily wheat and soybean seed. He is a member of the MCIA board of directors and has served his community as a volunteer firefighter, a member of the Farmers Elevator board, and as a church elder.

**Mike Zabel**, of Plainview, continues a family tradition of producing and conditioning high quality certified seed. Since returning to the family farm in 1992, Mike has been involved in all aspects of the seed business. Over the years, he has made a number of improvements to the MCIA approved seed conditioning facility, including the addition of an automated palletizing system. Mike served as chair of the MCIA board of directors and has been involved in many other organizations.

**Paula Mohr**, Editor of *The Farmer* magazine, received the Honorary Premier Seedsman Award. She has spent over 35 years covering state and national agricultural issues. An award-winning writer, Paula has dedicated her career to informing, educating, and entertaining readers both on and off the farm. She has been a supporter of MCIA and the seed industry, writing several articles about MCIA members. Paula is also involved in the Minnesota FFA Foundation, the Farm Bureau, and Farmers Union.

**Field Services Notes:** During the winter months, facility inspections and seed sampling are two important activities for MCIA's Field Services staff. You will also see us at various meetings this winter.

The end of 2019 saw promotions for our Field Services staff. **Kris Folland's new title is Field Services Manager.** Kris is now responsible for managing the entire Field Services division and is the point of contact for all inquiries and matters related to Field Services. **Seth Dagoberg's new title is Special Services Manager.** Seth is now responsible for MCIA special programs such as MnDOT, Noxious Weed Seed-free Forage and Mulch, Sod, Native Seed, Identity Preserved, and Quality Assurance, as well as being involved in the development of new programs and services. If you have questions about facility inspections, seed sampling, or other issues, give us a call.

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**MCIA Services:**  
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 Field Services  
 Foundation Seed Services  
 Organic Services  
 Seed Laboratory Services