

Improving your process · Enhancing your products · Increasing your profits

JANUARY

- 7–28** Minnesota Organic Conference, Virtual (sessions each Thursday)
- 18** MCIA Office Closed
- 20** Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers On-farm Research Summit, Virtual
- 20–21** MN Ag Expo, Virtual
- 21–23** Northern Plains Food & Farming Conference, Virtual
- 25–26** Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research, Virtual
- 29–30** Emerging Farmers Conference, Virtual

FEBRUARY

- 13** SFA Annual Conference, Virtual
- 22–27** Growing Stronger: Collaborative Conference on Organic and Sustainable Farming, Virtual

Attention Approved Facilities:

Included in your December invoice is your Approved Facility Fee for 2021. Agreements were mailed out in late November. Agreements should be signed and returned to the MCIA office. Your field supervisor will be in contact with you to schedule your upcoming facility inspection. Thank you for participating in the Approved Facilities Program! Contact your Field Supervisor if you have questions or concerns about your upcoming facility inspection.

The **Minnesota Certified Seed Guide** has been published. Be sure to ask your Field Supervisor for a copy.

The following awards were presented at MCIA's Annual Meeting, January 13, 2021

Achievement in Crop Improvement Award

Dr. Don Wyse, University of Minnesota professor and researcher, has been named the recipient of the MCIA Achievement in Crop Improvement Award. Dr. Wyse came to Minnesota in 1974 to accept a weed scientist position. The focus of his work quickly became quackgrass control in Kentucky bluegrass. Thus began a 45-year relationship with the grass seed producers in northern Minnesota. His work has been a key part in the success of the grass seed industry in Minnesota. He is a well-respected teacher, researcher, and leader. Today his work focuses on perennial and winter annual crops through the Forever Green Initiative.

Premier Seedsman

Bob Ehlers has been a certified seed producer for 45 years. Today he owns and operates Red River Marketing Company near Elbow Lake. His entry into the seed business was based on the belief that "Good year or bad, farmers will need quality seed every year." Bob is an active MCIA member, serving as vice chair of the board of directors. He has also been active in various local organizations, including his church and area school board.

Clyde Kringlen has been associated with certified seed since he and his father purchased McIntosh Farm Service in 1981. With a passion for wheat seed, Clyde has also worked for Triangle Ag and currently manages wheat seed production for West Central Ag Services. He sees the value of wheat in the rotation and he enjoys seeing the advancements being made in wheat production. Clyde has also found time to serve his community in a variety of ways.

Dean and Dennis Tarning, of Cokato, grew up in a seed corn producing family. They also grew and conditioned certified seed of small grains and soybeans. In 1985, they began producing hybrid seed corn for their retail brand, Tarning Seeds. Today they can produce, harvest, and dry seed corn from over 6,000 acres. They continue to work with other local seed companies and say much of their success is due to great employees who take pride in producing high quality seed.

Honorary Premier Seedsman

Donn Vellekson began working at the University of Minnesota in 1975. As a research scientist, his career has been devoted to turf grass and forage seed production research. Early crops included Kentucky bluegrass, timothy, and birdsfoot trefoil. Today, at the Magnusson Research Farm near Roseau, perennial ryegrass is the primary focus. Donn's work on fertility, herbicides, winter hardiness, and seed production has been instrumental in the success of the Minnesota grass seed industry.

Randy Krzmarzick has been a reliable, steady MCIA field inspector for 22 years. From his home farm near Sleepy Eye, he has walked thousands of acres across southwest Minnesota. Inspecting fields of oats, wheat, soybeans, and occasionally corn, has provided him with the opportunity to meet people from family-owned operations to multinational corporations. He is proud to play a small part in the seed world. Randy writes a column in the *New Ulm Journal* and is involved in various organizations.

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

Field Services Staff

DISTRICT 1: Kris Folland, Halma · kris.folland@mncia.org · 218-791-2156
 DISTRICT 2: Seth Dagoberg, Richville · seth.dagoberg@mncia.org · 218-556-3170
 DISTRICT 3: Tom Keskey, Cokato · tom.keskey@mncia.org · 320-224-2390
 DISTRICT 4: Dan Krenz, Redwood Falls · dan.krenz@mncia.org · 507-220-7942

MCIA Services:

Certification Services
 Field Services
 Foundation Seed Services
 Organic Services
 Seed Laboratory Services