

MCIA Members Host On-farm Trials



Images and information courtesy of *Prairie Grains Magazine*.

Farmers and seed producers interested in small grains often take in a field plot tour during the summer. This season, they won't have to drive very far, thanks in part to six MCIA members who have offered their farms as host sites for the University of Minnesota's on-farm trials: R & R Seeds, Le Center; Lee's Seed Farm, Benson; John Walkup, Fergus Falls; Swenson Seed Farm, Oklee; Jim Kukowski, Strathcona; and Neil and Mark Wiese, Humboldt.

As certified seed producers, these cooperators enjoy benefits from hosting on-farm trials. They

gain knowledge about the numerous varieties in the plots and also get an early look at experimental lines from public and private breeding programs. "Seeing how the varieties perform in our area for yield and standability is important to farmers," says Scott Lee of Lee's Seed Farm, who has both wheat and oat trials on his farm. A member of the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers, Lee also enjoys the opportunity to promote the benefits of wheat production.

Swenson Seed Farm has been a host site for wheat and barley trials for over 20 years. Describing this year's plot, owner Ray Swenson says, "it was planted early and looks great." "Having plots at several on-farm locations provides more data, which gives better information about a variety," he adds. With a prime location south of Oklee on Highway 92, visitors will often stop by to walk the plot on their own.

Jochum Wiersma, Extension Small Grains Specialist, established the on-farm trials in 1996. During the growing season, he and his crew will oversee nearly 5,000 field trial plots at 11 off-station locations. He is often one of the people you will hear from at the various plot tours. Funding for this research comes from the Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council, the Minnesota Dept of Agriculture, and Albert Lea Seed House.

Whether it is one of the on-farm trials or a plot at one of the university's Research and Outreach Centers, there is a location relatively close by and it is likely supported by a certified seed producer.

For more event details, please visit: <http://smallgrains.org>.



UMN SMALL GRAINS PLOT TOURS

JUNE 28, 12:00 P.M.

LeCenter/Montgomery
Ruth Hoefs and Ron Pomiji Farm

JUNE 28, 5:00 P.M.

New Ulm
Starkeller August Schell Brewing Co.

JUNE 29, 12:00 P.M.

Kimball/Marty
Dave Lochen Farm

JULY 2, 5:00 P.M.

Benson
Lee Seed Farm

JULY 16, 8:30 A.M.

Fergus Falls
John Walkup Farm

JULY 17, 9:00 A.M.

Oklee
Swenson Seed Farm

JULY 18

Crookston
Northwest Research & Outreach Center

JULY 20, 9:00 A.M.

Humboldt
Neil and Mark Wiese Farm

JULY 20, 12:00 P.M.

Strathcona
Jim Kukowski Farm

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The MCIA board of directors and its president/CEO met in Saint Paul on March 15, 2018. Mory Rugg, Scott Habstritt, Nat Forster, Duane Dahlman, Matt Bohn, Darius Thiel, Fawad Shah, Nancy Jo Ehlike, Kurt Flegel, Denise Thiede, Jim Kukowski, Bob Ehlers.



After the spring MCIA board meeting I was driving to my folks' home back in North Dakota and I looked out at the barren fields with the remnants of last year's crops sticking through the snow. I wondered what those fields had in store for them this coming season and it made me think back about my introduction to certification.

I was helping fill the drill with Durum wheat and the bags were pretty fancy with a blue tag. I

asked my dad what that was all about. Well, it was a new variety that was supposed to be good. My uncle was up in Crookston the day before picking up the seed. So, with a few more questions and answers I had my introduction to Certified Seed.

Forty years later, the seed certification process and new releases are still relatively the same, but agriculture sure has changed and evolved. Back in the day, as my son would say, corn was only for silage and soybeans were unheard of in the Kulm, North Dakota area. Pest and herbicide resistant traits were only a thing of science fiction, and everybody had an organic garden, they just didn't think much of it.

Now MCIA is certifying sod, doing non-GMO traceability and hemp seed certification (some things come full circle), along with a robust Organic program. While added programs and reopening the seed lab broadens the business base, it also adds some complexity and requires additional expertise. Working through how to allocate the appropriate resources to each program requires that we look at budgeting and accounting from changed perspectives.

MCIA has been up to accepting the new challenges that come with implementing changes and expanding the business. Just as those fields were anticipating a new crop year, so does MCIA continue to look forward to the excitement of new business prospects and challenges.

As for me, I am still asking questions and learning the process and look forward to working with the staff to make MCIA a great certification agency.

Welcome Eli Gindele!

Eli Gindele has been hired as MCIA Field Supervisor for the southern part of the state. Eli grew up on a hobby farm in St. Michael and showed animals through 4H. His first job was milking cows. He's done many other agriculture-related jobs, from picking apples to scouting potato fields.

Eli graduated with a B.S. in crop science from the University of Wisconsin—River Falls. Most recently, Eli has held the position of Agricultural Extension Educator in Northwest Minnesota.

Eli began work with MCIA in May. He enjoys seeing the innovations in seed conditioning and production techniques employed by our members as well as having discussions with growers about current field conditions.

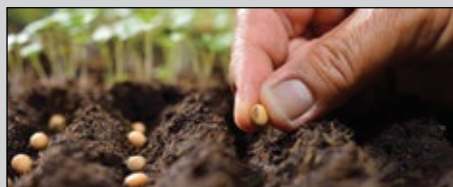
"Walking the fields is the best part of the job!" he says. "The spread of agriculture across southern Minnesota is different from west to east, and I like those transitions."



Shah to Teach Seed Science Class

MCIA President/CEO Dr. Fawad Shah will be teaching a class this fall on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.

The plant science course, titled "Seed Science, Technology, and Society," will cultivate an understanding and appreciation for seed with respect to agriculture and society.



Subject matter to be covered will include topics related to seed physiology, production, quality, dormancy,

conditioning, certification, regulation, and marketing.

The two-credit class (PLSC 3002) will be taught two days a week during the fall semester.

Visit www.plantscience.umn.edu for more information.

the Plant Variety Protection Act specifies sale only as a class of certified seed”

Minnesota Seed Law, Section 21.86, Subdivision 1, (i) states, in part, that it is unlawful to offer seed for sale if, *“it contains any labeling, advertising, or other representation subject to sections 21.82 and 21.83 representing the seed to be certified unless:*

1) it has been determined by a seed certifying agency that the seed conformed to standards of purity and identity as to kind, species, subspecies, or variety, and also that tree seed was found to be of the origin and elevation claimed, in compliance with the rules pertaining to the seed; and 2) the seed bears an official label issued for it by a seed certifying agency stating that the seed is of a certified class and a specified kind, species, subspecies, or variety”

Sellers of cover crop seed should find out if a variety is protected by searching the variety name at <https://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/pvp/pvplist.pl>. This simple tool can help comply with the federal and state seed laws and avoid litigation and fines. Owners of the PVP varieties do enforce their PVP rights, and violators can face expensive penalties.

Buyers should determine if the seed is of a PVP-protected variety and ask for certification tags. Seed should be properly labeled to comply with state seed regulations. Seed labels must include kind, variety, purity, germination, lot, and the labeler's name and address. Seed testing is an inexpensive insurance for your seed investment; it also provides information about the presence of any other crops or weed seed in the lot, including noxious weed seed. Minnesota Seed Law has zero tolerance of prohibited noxious weed seed offered for sale in Minnesota.

Consider making a relatively small investment of your time and resources to ensure you comply with intellectual property protection and prohibited seed laws and help enhance life through seed innovations.

Additional information on cover crop seed can be found on the MCIA website, www.mncia.org, under Quick Resources.



Seed is not only the source for food, feed, clothing, shelter, and medicine, but is also a foundation for many innovations that enhance life. Considerable research and development resources are spent for continued development of new and improved crop varieties that help meet life challenges. Effective intellectual property protection ensures the value of scientific advances and helps promote future developments.

The U.S. Plant Variety Protection Act of 1970 (PVP) is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture's Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO). The PVPO provides intellectual property protection to breeders of new varieties of seed and tubers. PVPO certification protects plant varieties for 20 years and vine and tree varieties for 25 years.

Throughout the nation, use of cover crops has been increasing. More often than not, cover crop seeds include crop varieties that are currently under PVP protection. It is worth noting that state and federal regulations apply when seed of PVP varieties are sold—even for cover crop use.

The Federal Seed Act Section 501 states, in part, *“it shall be unlawful in the United States or in the interstate or foreign commerce to sell or offer for sale or advertise, by variety name, seed not certified by an official seed certifying agency, when it is a variety for which a certificate of plant variety protection under*



Organic Corner

Michelle Menken, Organic Services Manager

Crop applications were due June 1 and we received most of them. Thank you! Getting your applications in on time makes it so much easier to coordinate our inspectors.

We now have our updated computer program in use. It still needs a little work but the foundation is great and we expect it to save us a lot of time going forward. Last spring, we typed in about half the Organic System Plans (OSP). This year, as we complete the final reviews, we will type in the OSP for the remaining applications. Come next year everyone should get a filled-in OSP. This will help us get our renewal packets out earlier and there will be fewer pages for you to complete. We will do this for the handlers and processors as well this year.

I want to warn everyone that glyphosate-tolerant (GT) GMO seed came off patent last year. So, if you buy nonorganic seed, you must verify it is non-GMO. Most of this GMO seed I have seen in the catalogues has RR (Roundup Ready) or GT after the variety name or number, such as 5708GT or RK115RR.

Another certifier let us know they did a random pesticide residue sample on chopped hay. It came back positive. They determined that the baler twine, which was chopped with the hay, was treated with an insecticide. So, be sure you remove the twine before chopping.

As I noted last year, we are required to test 5 percent of our clients' products each year and conduct unannounced inspections at 5 percent of our certified operations. That means we will conduct 24 unannounced inspections and pull 24 samples this year.



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Mission Statement

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association is an organization dedicated to improving the productivity, profitability and competitive position of producers, processors, and distributors of agricultural products by providing services to enable them to provide high-quality products to Minnesota, the United States, and the world.

Improving your process • Enhancing your products • Increasing your profits

CALENDAR

JUNE–JULY

University of Minnesota Small Grains Summer Plot Tours
See page 1 for more details

JUNE–AUGUST

Seed Conditioning Workshops: Iowa State Univ., Ames
For full schedule visit www.seedlab.iastate.edu/training

JULY

- 11 Organic Field Day at SWROC: Lamberton
- 25–27 Northern Seed Trade Association Annual Meeting: Omaha, NE

AUGUST

- 7–9 Minnesota Farmfest: Morgan
- 14 Organic Dairy Day at WCROC: Morris
- 28–30 Global Trade Exchange & Midwest Specialty Grains Conference and Trade Show
Kansas City, MO

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER

Minnesota State Fair: St. Paul, August 23–September 3

For more event information visit www.mncia.org.