

## It's that time of year again: 2005 Field Inspection Season

Field inspection season is around the corner! We've dedicated a portion of this issue of your association's newsletter to the subject. Whether you are applying for seed certification, Quality Assurance, Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage & Mulch or any of our other programs, read on for tips and information about field inspection:

### At a Glance: Application Deadlines

June 15 ..... Small grains, forage & mulch, and other crops requiring multiple inspections

June 15 ..... New variety descriptions due for small grain, corn, sunflowers, and soybeans requiring multiple inspections

July 31 ..... Native grasses planted before July 1

August 1 ..... Soybeans requiring only one inspection

August 1 ..... New variety descriptions due for soybeans requiring only one inspection, IP Grain, QA and pre-harvest only inspections

November 1 ..... Native grasses planted after July 1

### Tips for Field Inspection Applications

Field Inspection Applications were sent out in mid-May. If you have not received yours or need some extras, call the office or find them online at [www.mncia.org](http://www.mncia.org). Please take a moment after filling out your application to make sure all the required information is included. Incomplete applications are not processed until all the necessary information is gathered.

- Note the due date for your application (see above)
- If you are applying for field inspection of a new variety, please submit a complete variety description (forms are available from the office)
- Include a proof of seed source (tags or bulk sales certificate) for Seed Certification, Identity Preserved Grain, Quality Assurance, and Native Grasses and Forbs
- Include payment with your application, noting the revised fee schedules (remember, there is a 20 acre minimum per field)
- Include the date planted for every field
- Remember to sign your application

### Field Signs For Ulen Wheat

Field signs for Ulen wheat are available. Please contact Roger in the main office for more information. Information will also be sent directly to those who purchased Ulen wheat this year.

### Fee Changes

Please be sure to take note of the revised fee schedule when you are filling out field applications this year.

- **There is no longer a field fee**
- **Acreage fees have changed**

Updated fee schedules were sent out along with the field applications in May. A copy is also available on the web, or by contacting the office.

### Field Personnel Gear Up for Field Inspection Season

Each year since the 1920's MCIA field inspectors have traveled across Minnesota inspecting fields. Over the years, inspectors have been in nearly every county of the state in all kinds of field conditions, inspecting a variety of crops from adzuki beans to winter wheat. Field inspections have been and continue to be a basic part of many MCIA programs

**We may not travel by train or use a horse and wagon to get to the field anymore, but walking the field is still an integral part of many MCIA programs.**

including Seed Certification, Quality Assurance, IP Grain, Native Grasses and Forbs, and our Forage and Mulch programs. Each program has specific requirements that must be met. The field inspection is completed by a trained inspector and must be done in a timely manner.

To handle over 200,000 acres of inspections each year, MCIA relies on the talents of four field supervisors, Ben Lang, Brenda Rogers, Jerry Hermann and Jim Boots. They are located throughout Minnesota and utilize part time inspectors, many of whom return each year to work for MCIA during the inspection season. Inspectors receive annual training and updates for each program. In addition to their own inspection activities, the supervisors coordinate part-time inspectors and review all inspections conducted in their area. Look inside this issue for a quick reference to your supervisor's contact information.

## Foundation Seed Sales Increase in 2005

A strong demand for the new Minnesota wheat release Ulen helped Foundation seed sales increase by 30% in 2005. Foundation wheat sales rose by over 70% this year. In addition to Ulen, other popular varieties included Oklee and Steele-ND. Oat sales remained relatively unchanged in 2005, Winona and Esker were the most sought after varieties. Barley sales remained below 1000 bushels sold. Soybean sales were comparable to last year with early maturing varieties and specialty type making up the majority of the sales. Table 1 provides a yearly comparison of the sales of these major crops.

**Table 1 Yearly Foundation Seed Sales 2001-2005**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% Change **
Wheat	9,159	16,465	14,767	7,902	13,602	72%
Oats	6,825	5,841	4,121	4,380	4,288	(2%)
Barley	5,504	2,898	1,378	845	667	(21%)
Soybeans	7,711	3,455	*5946	*4,953	*4,947	No change
Total	29,199	27,659	26,212	18,080	23,504	30%

\* Includes specialty soybeans produced under contract

\*\* % Change is between 2004 and 2005

### Seed Lab Notes

The MCIA Seed lab is wrapping up another year as the final samples for this season trickle in for testing. The general condition of small grain samples received this year was very good with good germinations and test weight with only light levels of scab. Soybean samples were more variable with moistures that were high and low with some lower than average germinations. With the odd growing season in 2004 seed size was also smaller.

The departure of Nathan Winter in January resulted in some reorganization of lab responsibilities. We trust you have been pleased with the service you received. Paul Mickelson and Jerry Hermann with the help of our part time staff did an excellent job of handling the germination and purity testing. In the office, Jody Prudhomme and Beth Bedell continued their fine work of answering your questions and getting reports out to you in a timely manner. Overall, the transition has gone well. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

*-Roger Wippler*

### Chairman's View

Steve Helmstetter was elected last winter as the new Chairman of the MCIA Board of Directors. Located in Roosevelt, Minnesota, he farms over 2,900 acres producing Certified wheat seed, grain, legume seed, ryegrass, bluegrass and oil seeds. The farm also includes some acreage for native Minnesota grasses and forbs.

Steve has been a member of MCIA for over twenty years and his experience and leadership skills will be an asset to the Board. We look forward to Steve's article in the fall issue of the Seed Grower.

### Carryover Seed

Please report your carryover from 2004 of seed eligible for certification by August 15 to maintain its eligibility for certification. If certification is applied for more than 3 years after filing a "Declaration of Carryover Seed", a copy of the field inspection report must be furnished with the application. The form "Declaration of Carryover Seed" can be obtained from the MCIA office.

### Advertising Space Available in the MCIA Directory

Advertising space will be available again this year in the MCIA Directory. This is a very affordable way to get your name in front of a large number of customers!

The Directory is mailed to approximately 2000 users who are seed producers, seed conditioners, seed wholesalers, retailers and many more in the agri-business industry. Please plan to submit your ad by August 15. For more information, please contact the office.

#### Advertisement rates:

Centerspread (15" x 10") .....	\$700.00
Inside Front Cover (7-1/2" x 10").....	450.00
Inside Back Cover (7-1/2" x 10") .....	350.00
Full Page (7-1/2" x 10").....	275.00
1/2 page horizontal (4-3/4" x 7") .....	200.00
1/2 page vertical (3-3/8" x 9-3/4") .....	200.00
1/4 page (3-3/8" x 4-3/4").....	125.00
1/8 page (3-3/8" x 2-3/8").....	75.00

### Organic Corner

I joined MCIA in March to work with our members in the organic handling and food industry sectors and to serve as the Manager of Marketing Services. I will be visiting members in greater Minnesota, and I look forward to speaking with many of you in the near future. I want to become acquainted with you and your operations. My inspection responsibilities will primarily be with our Metro Area clients in the organic handling and food industry sectors. If you ever need anything or have questions about the organic program, please give me a call.

*-Jon Anderson*

### Obituary

Lambert Schilling, 85, of Dalton died Saturday, April 23, 2005 at Innovis Hospital in Fargo, ND. He had worked with MCIA for many years, in the laboratory and as a field inspector. He spent much of his life serving Minnesota agriculture, as a farmer and teacher.

## Beil's Spiel

SPRING IS A GREAT TIME OF YEAR! Coming from the Midwest I really like all the seasons we have in Minnesota. True, I like some of our seasons better than others. I have learned that our really cold winters help us have a greater appreciation for our great springs and falls. Maybe I like the seasons because I like the changes that always come just as you are getting bored with one kind of weather pattern. I like spring the best.

Spring reminds me a lot of the situation in which we find ourselves in production agriculture in general and in MCIA in particular. Spring is full of the power of new beginnings, of new hope for a great growing season, and great expectations for a great crop. The spring season is also sprinkled liberally with the panic associated with whether we will get the crop in before we run out of planting season and with questions of whether prices will hold and energy cost will not continue out of control.

We have all been through the seasons enough times to know that things don't always pan out the way we hope. We know that spring this year, like every year, will bring with it a lot changes. We can be sure that more new changes are in the near future that will require our adjustment to what is really happening in the markets and the operating environment. One of the best things about working with members of MCIA is that I have learned they generally are not threatened by these changes. They are challenged by them, and usually can ferret out the good benefits that are part of most change.

Maybe this is why I like spring so much. It always brings new challenges and new opportunities. Sure we often have to sort through the changes to capitalize on the benefits. But we do it. Have a great spring and a great growing season!

*-Gary Beil, President/CEO*

## Midwest Specialty Grains Conference Set For August 23-24, 2005

"Enhancing Relationships in the Global Marketplace" is the theme of the second annual Midwest Specialty Grains Conference and Trade Show set for August 23-24, 2005 in Bloomington, MN. Midwest Shippers' Association (MSA) will host the conference at the Ramada Inn Airport/Thunderbird Conference Center.

The conference expects to attract a good combination of Upper Midwest growers, handlers, and processors coming together and end-users from Asia, Africa, Europe, Mexico, Canada, the USA, and elsewhere.

If you are interested in exhibiting or attending, contact MSA at 612-252-1453 or email [bob@mnshippers.org](mailto:bob@mnshippers.org).

## Minnesota Releases Two New Varieties in 2005

The Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) released two new small grain varieties in 2005. Winona oats is an early variety with high yield potential and good lodging resistance. It was the earliest heading variety in Minnesota trials last year. Winona, named after the southeastern Minnesota city, is a yellow seeded variety with good test weight. Ulen hard red spring wheat was also released this year. Ulen is an early maturity hard red spring wheat with excellent yield potential across the state. The variety has above average protein levels and good test weight. The variety is named after the small town of Ulen in northwest Minnesota. These two varieties will be readily available to producers in 2005. Look for them at field days this summer.

## Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society's Summer Symposium & Farm Tour

Mark your calendar for July 8 & 9, 2005. NPSAS is having their annual event near Crookston and Fertile Minnesota. Information is available at [www.npsas.org](http://www.npsas.org).

### Field Supervisor Contact Information *Got a question about your inspection?*

**Jim Boots** - [jkboots@means.net](mailto:jkboots@means.net)

Phone: 507-644-3093

Cell: 507-420-5867

**Jerry Hermann** - [jherm@feltontel.net](mailto:jherm@feltontel.net)

Phone: 218-494-3757

Cell: 701-361-4728

**Ben Lang** - [bjlang@willmar.com](mailto:bjlang@willmar.com)

Phone: 320-235-5677

Cell: 320-905-1872

**Brenda Rogers** - [roger007@eot.com](mailto:roger007@eot.com)

Phone: 218-342-2747

Cell: 218-841-9964

Who's my supervisor?  
Here's where to find out:  
1-800-510-MCIA  
[www.mncia.org](http://www.mncia.org)



## MCIA Website

The MCIA website is currently under revision. The new site will be easier to navigate and faster to load. We hope to have it up and running sometime this summer. If you experience technical difficulties or have any suggestions, please contact Alana at 1-800-510-6242.



**The Minnesota Seed Grower**  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Minnesota Seed Grower, 1900 Hendon Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

MCIA is an organization dedicated to improving the productivity, profitability and the competitive position of MCIA members by providing services to producers, conditioners, and distributors of plant products enabling them to provide high quality plant products to Minnesota, the U.S. and the World.

MCIA Annual Meeting: January 12-13, 2006  
 Best Western Bigwood Event Center  
 in Fergus Falls, MN

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#### Calendar

**June 15** .....Field inspection applications due: small grain, forage & mulch, & any crops requiring multiple inspections  
**June 15** .....New variety descriptions due: small grain, corn, sunflowers, and soybeans requiring multiple inspections  
**June 29** .....U of MN Field Day: Grass Seed Day, Roseau, MN  
**July 8** .....U of MN Field Day: WCROC, Morris, MN  
**July 14** .....U of MN Field Day: SWROC, Lamberton, MN  
**July 19-20** .....U of MN Field Day: Field School SWROC, Lamberton, MN  
**July 25-26** .....MCIA Board meeting, Shooting Star Casino, Mahanomen  
**July 31** .....Field inspection applications due: native grasses planted before July 1  
**August 1** .....Field inspection applications due: soybeans requiring only one inspection  
**August 1** .....New variety descriptions due: soybeans, IP Grain, QA and pre-harvest only inspections  
**November 1** .....Field inspection applications due: native grasses planted after July 1  
**November 18** .....MCIA Board meeting, St. Paul  
**January 12-13, 2006** .....MCIA Annual Meeting, Fergus Falls

#### Part-time Field Inspector Job Openings

We are still looking for part-time field inspectors for the coming field inspection season. Positions are open in several areas of Minnesota. MCIA offers flexible working hours depending on the applicant's schedule.

Visit us on the web at: [http://www.mncia.org/SN\\_about\\_positions\\_available.htm](http://www.mncia.org/SN_about_positions_available.htm), or contact the office at 1-800-510-6242 for information and an application.

#### Are you moving soon?

*Remember to tell us your new contact information!*



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Email: [mncia@tc.umn.edu](mailto:mncia@tc.umn.edu)