FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association Presents Honorary Premier Seed Grower Award to Andrea Johnson

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, January 12, 2022  Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) today recognized journalist Andrea Johnson with the Honorary Premier Seed Grower Award. The award, presented annually since 1930, recognizes individuals not directly involved in seed production but who have actively supported the seed industry, MCIA, and their local community.

Andrea Johnson received the award, along with fellow Honorary Premier Seed Grower awardee Dr. Kevin Smith, during the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association’s 119th Annual Meeting. The virtual event was hosted at MCIA’s office in St. Paul, Minnesota, January 12, 2022.

Andrea Johnson, of Appleton, Minnesota, has been writing about agriculture for over 30 years. She grew up on a crop and livestock farm near Canby in western Minnesota. There she gained an appreciation for agriculture and began to cultivate her interest in writing. Throughout her writing career, Andrea has supported the MCIA organization and its members.

With encouragement from her brother, Andrea launched her farm reporting career in 1989 when she began writing for The Land magazine. In the mid-1990s, she also contracted to write for Ag Innovations, the publication of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute. She joined the Farm & Ranch Guide team, headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1998.

A small group within Farm & Ranch Guide built Minnesota Farm Guide from the ground up. Its first biweekly issue was published in May 2002. Andrea was a key member of that group and served as assistant editor. A University of Minnesota graduate, she was delighted to direct much of her attention toward Minnesota agriculture.

One of Minnesota Farm Guide’s projects is the Minnesota Certified Seed Guide. The yearly magazine is a collaborative production involving the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association and the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. The Seed Guide strives to provide a comprehensive and accurate guide of yield trials as well as important MCIA information and certified seed directory. Andrea authors a significant article for the Seed Guide each year. Her work has helped highlight MCIA and the Minnesota seed industry.

Her connection to MCIA began on the home farm. Her father, Paul Frazeur, purchased certified seed from nearby Buer Seed to raise high quality crops. She enjoys taking her two daughters and five grandchildren out to the farm, now operated by her brother Doug and nephew Reed.

Her volunteer work revolves around teaching music to youth and participating in community bands and choirs. In 2020, Andrea became a Swift County Master Gardener. She enjoys helping others learn about growing vegetables and fruit.

Since 1903, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) has provided programs and services to meet the needs of an ever-changing agricultural world. These services include seed certification, organic certification, foundation seed production, and a variety of customized third-party verification programs for seed and identity-preserved grains. MCIA operates from facilities on the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus with field staff located throughout Minnesota.

If you would like more information on this topic, please contact Roger Wippler at 612-625-7766 or wippl002@umn.edu.