FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
Presents Premier Seed Grower Award to Duane and John Pazdernik

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, January 12, 2022  Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) today recognized Duane and John Pazdernik, of Waubun, with the Premier Seed Grower Award. The award, presented annually since 1928, recognizes individuals or partners involved in quality seed production, active in MCIA, and who provide excellent service to the seed industry.

Duane and John Pazdernik received the award, along with fellow Premier Seed Grower awardees, Larry Rivard, Richard (Dick) Stangler, and Harmen Tande, during the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association’s 119th Annual Meeting. The virtual event was hosted from MCIA’s office in St. Paul, Minnesota, January 12, 2022.

Duane and John Pazdernik, of Waubun, have been growing and conditioning certified seed for over thirty years. The Pazdernik brothers began producing seed when there were no other seed plants in Mahnomen County. They were also looking to add revenue to their bottom line and gain better access to new varieties.

Growing up on a crop and livestock farm, they learned the value of hard work and applied that work ethic to their seed business. Together, Duane and John have a combined one hundred years of farming experience. John is still active in the farming operation and Duane is recently retired, but still enjoys talking farming.

At the time they started producing certified seed they also decided to build a seed conditioning facility. With a used sieve mill and a gravity table, sourced from local elevators, they built their seed plant and began cleaning wheat and barley seed. Over the years they made many improvements and upgrades and are an MCIA Approved Facility.

One of the greatest benefits of the Pazdernik Farms seed business is that of community. Their customers are neighbors and friends, Duane and John truly value those relationships. Although they may only see some customers once a year, all are welcome to stop by for coffee and conversation.

To stay up-to-date on the latest production practices and various pest and disease issues the Pazdernik brothers could often be found at field days and various meetings. In addition to the MCIA Annual Meeting, one or both would attend the Prairie Grains Conference, Small Grain Updates, the Best of the Best workshops, or a local county crop meeting.

A new generation has joined the family farm. John’s grandson Gabe, with a degree in agriculture from NDSU, brings new ideas and methods to the operation. He currently works for Petermann Seeds Inc. of Hawley, in addition to being active in the Pazdernik Farms seed business.

Duane, an Air Force veteran, and John were involved for many years in the local community club. They are also members of the Minnesota Corn Growers and the Minnesota Soybean Growers organizations.

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.