Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
Presents Premier Seed Grower Award to Richard (Dick) Stangler

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, January 12, 2022  Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) today recognized Richard (Dick) Stangler, of Kilkenny, with the Premier Seed Grower Award. The award, presented annually since 1928, recognizes MCIA members for their dedication to the production and distribution of quality seed, as well as their involvement in MCIA and other organizations.

Dick Stangler received the award, along with fellow Premier Seed Grower awardees, Duane and John Pazdernik, Larry Rivard, and Harmen Tande, 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.

Dick Stangler, of Kilkenny has spent his entire life working with seed. His first job was to clip the metal MCIA seal on seed bags with a pliers. His grandfather, Elmer, started the family in the certified seed business; his father, Jim, followed. Dick continues the tradition of growing, conditioning, and selling seed. From 100-pound seed sacks, to forklifts, to tote boxes, and now bulk seed, he has seen many changes over the years.

With a passion for mechanics, planning, and building, Dick has regularly made improvements to their seed conditioning facility. It is still a family business as son Nick and daughter Becky are part of the operation. They produce 1,400 acres of soybeans, oats, wheat, and corn, in addition to 800 acres of contract seed production. Much of the farming is done in partnership with Dick’s brother Steve.

As part of MCIA, Dick participates in the Seed Certification, Approved Conditioning Facility and the Noxious Weed Seed–free Forage & Mulch programs. He also served as secretary of the local county crop improvement organization for many years. Dick has genuinely enjoyed being a part of MCIA and working with the MCIA staff.

In the 1990s, in an effort to increase crop diversity, Dick helped organize the Southern Minnesota Wheat Growers group. The group demonstrated practices that improved wheat quality and increased yields in the area.

After working with the local soil and water conservation service to install eight miles of waterways and terraces, Dick saw the benefits of conservation practices on their farm. Today, he offers cover crop mixes to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

In addition to raising seed crops, Dick feeds out 50 head of cattle and raises 600–700 broiler chickens every year. A graduate of Waterville-Elysian High School, this one time 4-H and FFA member still enjoys exhibiting at the State Fair Crops and Seed show and has collected a number of ribbons and awards over the years.

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.

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