FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
Presents Honorary Premier Seed Grower Award to Dave Grafstrom

FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA, January 12, 2023  Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) today recognized University of Minnesota researcher Dave Grafstrom 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.

Dave Grafstrom, of Roseau, is a key member of the University of Minnesota team addressing crop production issues at the Magnusson Research Farm. His interest in agriculture began while growing up on a dairy farm in Roseau County. Dave attended the University of Minnesota, first at Crookston and then in St. Paul, where he completed a degree in agronomy. He continued his education at NDSU, obtaining a PhD in weed science.

Dave began his career with BASF Corporation, where he held various positions throughout the Midwest. His work included small plot research, coordinating greenhouse and field trials as a technical services rep, and conducting on-farm demonstration trials. After returning to Minnesota, he was an agronomist for Cenex Harvest States for several years.

Dave had an early connection to MCIA when he worked for Jerry Herman as a field inspector. Since 2005, Dave has held the position of research agronomist at the Magnusson Research Farm, located near Roseau. His work includes all aspects of small plot research trials for a variety of crops including turf grasses, barley, canola, oats, rye, wheat, and soybeans.

On-farm plots are a key part of the Magnusson Farm research efforts. The cooperation from area growers for the these on farm trials has been fantastic. This off-site work allows more research to be conducted and benefits the entire growing region.

Much of Dave’s work involves grass seed production research. For over sixty years, the production of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass seed has been, and continues to be, an important part of the economy in northern Minnesota. Dave created an e-newsletter for grass seed growers, updating them weekly on growing conditions, management practices, and pest issues. He also shares information during summer plot tours, the annual Grass Seed Institute, and the UMN Turf Seed website.

Dave is the secretary of the Turf Seed Council, a group that serves the interests of the grass seed industry. He has served as a member of the Minnesota Wheat Growers On-Farm Research Advisory Committee and aided other ag-related efforts. He has also been involved in his church and local community.

Upon learning of the recognition Dave said, “I enjoy working with the grass seed producers and farmers in the area, we get great cooperation.”

A hockey player and coach, Dave enjoys spending time with his wife, Sharon, his children, and his grandchildren. They enjoy outdoor activities like camping, hunting, fishing, and travel.

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.