

Becoming a Certified Seed Producer

Crop Decisions: The first step in growing certified seed is deciding which crop and variety to grow. When growing many crops (wheat, beans, barley, oats, etc.) PVP status and possible royalty structures need to be considered.

Paperwork & Planting: First you must become a member of Nebraska Crop Improvement Association (complete an application form and pay member fee). Next, find a source of Foundation or Registered seed (or germplasm in the case of natives). You may need to be authorized by the genetics provider to receive and plant this seed. Review the land requirements in the NCIA Standards book. Select a clean piece of land, preferably free of any noxious weeds. Thoroughly clean out the planter before planting.

Field Preparation: Complete a Form A Application and submit maps to the NCIA office. The deadline for each crop is listed on the back of the Form A. You will then be sent a Form B to confirm you want the fields inspected and fees are to be sent to the NCIA office with the Form B. Control weed infestations and rogue fields of unwanted plants and weeds prior to field inspection. Know the field standards for the crop you are producing!

Inspections and Harvesting: NCIA will assign a field inspector to inspect your fields. The inspector will contact you several days before he is planning to do the field inspection. The inspector will contact you if there are any problems observed in the field. Good harvest practices are required. These include cleaning combines, grain carts, trucks, and bins between varieties. Varietal Purity is the goal of Certified seed! Send in a preliminary sample for a germination test, if desired, to make sure the seed is of proper quality to merit conditioning.

Conditioning: Condition the seed through an Approved Conditioner to meet certification requirements. If you condition your own seed, you must be a Grower Conditioner member and have the minimum required cleaning system. If the seed is custom conditioned, it must be done by an Approved Conditioner or a Custom Certified Conditioner member. You may transfer seed to an approved conditioner or to another seed grower who will sell the seed with his label. Notify NCIA of the transfer by filling out a Transfer Form. All fees/royalties associated with the variety are due from the original applicant on the Form A.

Testing: While conditioning the seed, pull several samples mix and take a subsample for analysis at the NCIA seed lab. Send 2 pounds of seed in a clearly marked container to a seed testing lab. Most seed is sent to the NCIA Seed Lab in a Seed Sample bag that are available from the NCIA office. The sample bags will allow you to clearly identify the seed and requests tests. If the seed passes all specifications, the NCIA will issue a lot number for the seedlot.

Marketing: Once the seed has been certified by the NCIA office, it can be marketed, labeled, and sold as Certified seed. You must label the seed, either with a Bulk Sales Certificate or Bulk Label Invoice (if sold in bulk), or a bag tag (adhesive or sew-on) if sold in a bag. Labeling the seed is a requirement of NCIA, the Nebraska Seed Act, and the Plant Variety Protection Act. Not labeling the seed is a serious violation which can lead to expulsion from NCIA and legal action from both the State and the variety owner. You must complete and submit a Production and Disposition Report to the NCIA office by the deadline for that crop.

Questions: Do not hesitate to call the NCIA office at (402) 472-1444 with any questions about seed certification in Nebraska. Also feel free to visit our website at www.necrop.org to learn more about our program.