

Dates & Events

March 15

Form A - Winter Small Grains

April 15

Form A - Spring Small Grains

May 15

Form A - Forage Grasses

Form B - Small Grains

May 26

Holiday - Office Closed

June 1

Form A - Dry Edible Beans, Millet

Form B - Forage Grasses

June 10

Corn Applications

July 1

Form A - Certified Soybeans

Form B - Dry Edible Beans, Millet

July 4

Holiday - Office Closed

August 1

Form B - Certified Soybeans

RR Preharvest Soybeans

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Seed Improvement Conference

The 2014 Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference was held January 13-15 at the Cornhusker, Lincoln. This is the first time in at least 40 years that it was held in Lincoln. The conference started Monday afternoon with tours of East Campus. Greenhouses, Tractor Museum and the NCIA offices/lab were all visited. Tuesday included presentations by Greg Ibach, Director of Ag; Ronnie Green, IANR, Lavon Heidemann, Lt. Governor, and other University speakers.

During the Awards Lunch, John Kuehn, J.M. Kuehn Inc., Heartwell, was honored as the **2013 Premier Seed Grower**. This award is



given to a Nebraska seed enterprise for outstanding achievement in certified seed production and marketing.

John was born in Minden, attended Heartwell Public schools through 8th grade, and graduated from Minden High School.

John began his agriculture career by doing general farm work, construction and working in a feed and seed store. In 1965 he rented 160 acres and began farming. He then purchased that farm in 1966 and moved to the farm site in 1970, where he and Janette still reside today.

The crops were all dryland until 1969 when they drilled their first irrigation well. John's cropping system consisted of corn, wheat, soybeans and alfalfa. Livestock was a major part of his operation, raising hogs and cattle. The hog production was discontinued in 1996 as he continued to focus on the cow-calf operation.

His certified seed operation started 37 years ago by producing certified wheat. A partnership was developed with Ardean Anderson of Marquette and this relationship evolved into the certified seed enterprise of Anderson and Associates. The group sold certified soybean and wheat, with John producing most of the certified wheat seed. John credits Ardean for

helping him learn about the production of seed. After Ardean retired, Anderson and Associates was dissolved and John started producing more certified seed always mindful to maintain the strict principles of seed production that Ardean had taught him.

About 40% of John's total acres are dryland. So producing certified wheat seed fits very well into their operation. John does not know how much seed he has produced over the years, but acknowledges that it was truly a family effort. Many trips were made by him and all of his children to Marquette to clean and bag wheat under the watchful eye of Ardean. Today the operation mainly sells bulk seed as there is very little demand for wheat seed in a bag.

John says that the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association has been extremely helpful to him in selecting varieties that fit the area; thus contributing to the success of their certified seed business.

Over the years John has learned that every year brings it's own challenges. He feels fortunate to have other certified seed producers in the area that help each other out of problems that may occur when the sales season gets a little crazy. He is thankful they are able to access seed from among them!

John is a lifetime member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and currently serving as an Elder. John continues to serve as Board Chairman for the Kearney County Planning and Zoning Commission that he has been a member of since 1998, and Chairman since 2008. He is a member of the Kearney County Farm Bureau, Nebraska Cattlemen's Association, the Kearney-Franklin County Cattlemen, and charter member of the Heartwell Lions Club.

John and Janette have four children, Jill Smith and husband Jerry of Broken Bow, Julia Pavelka and husband John of Omaha, Joel Kuehn and wife Shannon, and John L Kuehn all of Heartwell.

John thinks certified seed is a positive step toward keeping and maintaining the integrity and the development of crop seeds for farmers to feed the world. To quote John, "Certified wheat seed is what we like to grow and harvest, but most of all they appreciate all the friends and customers that it has brought them for the past 37 years!"

Thirty year members recognized were Kenneth Degenhardt, Hebron; Kaup Seed & Fertilizer, West Point; and Monsanto, Kearney. These members have been active members over a 30 year period.

Tuesday evening was concluded with a banquet and a speaker, Matt Davison. Wednesday was another day of meetings. The conference ended with a tour of Memorial Stadium.

**Nebraska Crop Improvement Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2014
Lincoln, NE**

- The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Mark Spurgin, President.
- It was determined that a quorum was present.
- **It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.**
- **It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2013 annual meeting as presented. Motion carried.**
- Dave Fuss gave a preliminary treasurer's report. NCIA started with an approved budget of \$520,800. Total income was \$690,282, expenses were \$574,187 for a net gain of \$112,088. These are all preliminary numbers. **It was moved and seconded to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried.**
- The Nominating Committee report was presented. Harlan Husa will run for the open District 2 position. Mark Spurgin is eligible for re-election for District 3. Spurgin asked for nomination from the floor. There were none. **It was moved and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.**
- It was announced that Leon Kriesel, Kriesel Certified Seed, Gurley, will be the NSTA representative to the NCIA Board.
- Steve Knox gave a management report. Total acres for 2013 is 87,774 which is up from 2012. Wheat and corn acres are all up. Phyto inspections were down. Sales were very good especially wheat. Donna Maul retired in March. Michael Mann was hired in May and resigned in December. NCIA is still doing IRMs. 54 will be done in 2014. In March, the Board approved to look for land to build a warehouse. Land was purchased and a 50 x 200 warehouse is being built. For 2014 corn acres should be strong, and wheat acres should be strong again. He thanked the NCIA staff and board.
- Steve Knox recognized Mark Spurgin as the outgoing NCIA president.
- Steve Knox presented Doug Broberg with an outgoing board member award.
- Steve Pageler discussed maps and what is expected. All inspectors are told to call two days in advance of inspections. Field map verification and wheat quality assessment is still available.
- Steve Knox discussed social media and better ways to contact members with information. He noted that R&D Fees are not collected on seed planted. He also updated more on the property and warehouse.
- Mark Spurgin asked for old business. There was none.
- Mark Spurgin asked for new business. Leon Kriesel discussed the NCIA Fees Committee which met a few years ago. He feels committee should meet again. The Board has been discussing fees in their meetings. Kriesel also discussed member benefits. He thinks we should provide free registration to new members who attend the SIC conference. Also wanted to encourage members to attend by give free registration every five years. Kriesel also discussed some type of rebate on long time memberships. Also maybe a volume discount. He suggested a committee to work with UNL on how new releases are handled and the need to be more involved in the amount set for the royalty. A committee should also be formed to work with any company that may own technology that is transferred in a variety, to be involved with the release of the variety and with the establishment of any tech fees and be in a position to say yes or no to those fees.

- Conrad Nelson updated on the Curtis Technical College. The Board met in August and is still discussing how they can help the Agronomy Department at Curtis.
- The NCIA Board was encouraged to support Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) by contacting the EPA to maintain the current levels.
- Concerns with the UNL variety trials were also discussed.
- **It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned.

NCIA Board Reorganizes

At the NCIA annual meeting, **Harlan Husa**, Hebron, was elected to serve his first term on the board representing District 2. **Mark Spurgin**, District 3 was reelected to serve a second term. During their re-organizational meeting, the Board elected a slate of officers for 2014. **Jerry Radke** was elected president, **Dave Fuss** was elected as vice-president, and **Joe Thimm** was elected as Treasurer. **Jerry Radke** was appointed as Chair of the Committee of Management for NuPride. **Joe Thimm** was appointed board representative to the Nebraska Seed Trade Association Advisory Committee. **Leon Kriesel**, Kriesel Certified Seed, will serve as the NSTA representative to the NCIA board. Other board members include **Brad Hansen**, **Ryan Peters**, **Rick Koelsch**, IANR-UNL, and **Roch Gaussoin**, Agronomy.



Back(L to R) Gaussoin, Husa, Thimm, Kriesel, Fuss, Hansen
Front (L to R) Peters, Radke, Spurgin, Koelsch



NCIA Officers (L to R) Thimm-Treasurer, Radke-President,
Fuss-Vice President

New Seed Analyst



My name is Rebecca Ott, and I have recently joined the NCIA team as a seed analyst. I am from Lincoln where I live with my husband of 15 years and our two children. I have always worked in agronomy, although I'm not quite sure how a city girl like me ended up there. It may have started with my love of the sand hills due to frequent visits to family there and also because my first job was working on the wheat breeding project right after

high school all the way through college.

I received my degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis on range management. I then moved to Scottsbluff and worked with the Turfgrass Seed Production Project at the PREC. A few years later, I moved back to Lincoln and went to work on the soybean breeding project for many years. I am enjoying learning all kinds of new things in my new position with the NCIA. I look forward to becoming a registered seed analyst and becoming more involved with the NCIA.

NCIA Warehouse

The NCIA warehouse is almost complete. This means that you will be able to pick up certified seed bags and NuPride bags at our 3301 N. 33 Street location starting in April 2014. Please contact the office **at least one day in advance** to make sure someone is in the office that can get you loaded. We hope this will make it more convenient for you to pick up bags and seed supplies. We will get to see everyone more often!



Changes to Late Fees

The NCIA Board met March 12 for the second quarter meeting. The NCIA fee structure was evaluated. The Board had only one change to the fee schedule. Late fees will increase. The late fee for the Form A will increase from \$25 to \$50. Form B late fees will increase from \$25 for first field and \$5 for all other fields to \$50 and \$10 each additional field up to 2 weeks past the due date. Form Bs over 2 weeks past due will be \$100 for first field and \$10 each additional field. **These changes will be effective January 1, 2015.**

Seed Field Inspectors

We are expecting an increase in inspection acreage this season, and we need your help. We are in need of several field inspectors for small grains and corn seed fields. The small grains inspectors need to be located in one of the following counties (**Box Butte, Dawes, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, or Sheridan**) and the corn seed inspectors in (**Seward, York, Fillmore, Saline, Valley, Greeley, and Sherman**). If you know of someone that would be interested, please pass along the following information.

Requirements:

1. Responsible individuals with the ability to schedule time and work alone without supervision.
2. Good communication and descriptive writing skills.
3. Ability to work with professionals within the seed production industry.
4. A commitment to quality work with effective problem solving and decision-making.
5. At least 18 years of age.
6. Tolerance to pollen allergies.
7. Knowledge of crop and seed production is desirable.

While performing the duties, the inspector is required to have access to and regularly drive a motor vehicle and be able to walk long distances occasionally in adverse conditions.

Hourly wage plus mileage. For more information or to apply go to: <http://www.necrop.org/employment.htm> or call 402-472-1444.

2015
Nebraska Seed
Improvement Conference
January 12-14, 2015
Sandhills Convention
Center
North Platte, Nebraska

Snapshots from 2014 Seed Improvement Conference



Tractor Museum tour



Greenhouse tour



NCIA lab tour



Members talking with Lt. Governor Heidemann



Banquet speaker Matt Davison



Members talking with an exhibitor