

March 2017

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 29

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 3 - 4

Holiday - Office Closed

August 1

Form B - Certified Soybeans

NuPride Pre-harvest Soybean Applications

January 15-17, 2018

Seed Improvement Conference - Embassy Suites - Lincoln

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Field Inspection Preparation

Small grain fields can be scheduled for inspection any time after heading and before harvest. Failure to have your fields inspected and approved will **eliminate** these fields and seed from certification. Applicants will receive notification by mail informing them who their inspector is. Work with your inspector if you are not certain whether the field has been inspected before you begin harvest of the field. Do not delay getting your fields ready for inspection. Once the field is headed it can be inspected and may be scheduled for inspection at any time. Applicants should receive notification from your inspector at least 2 days prior to the inspection. If this is not occurring, please inform the NCIA.

As in the past, **if your seed field is not ready for inspection it may be rejected.** If the reason for rejection is correctable but not an isolated problem, re-inspection will be required for certification and will be indicated on the affidavit accompanying your field inspection report. The applicant may choose to continue certification of the seed field by agreeing to a re-inspection on the affidavit and returning it to the NCIA office. The request may delay harvest and will not take priority over other first time inspections your inspector may have scheduled. An additional fee of \$2 per acre will be assessed to complete the re-inspection.

The field must be clearly defined and properly isolated according to certification standards. To avoid a costly second inspection, a visible border or break between fields must be visible or marked with a visible marker that is above the mature height of the crop at the time of inspection.

Rouging fields prior to inspection is recommended to remove undesirable plants from fields. In small grains, rouging should be done after heading since off-types and other crops are most easily detected at that time. Fields that fail NCIA standards for off-type plants will not be eligible for re-inspection unless the problem is determined to be in an isolated area of the field.

A field may also be rejected if the field inspector determines that the amount and kind of weeds present make it difficult to conduct an inspection. **Particularly, the presence of Primary or Prohibited Noxious weeds bearing seeds in any field at inspection will disqualify it for seed purposes.** If the top growth (seed producing parts) of such weeds have been completely destroyed at the time of field inspection, the field may be approved. This means, for example, that uncontrolled Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle and Field Bindweed could result in a seed field being rejected completely, if it is a severe infestation, or be rejected with an affidavit to remove the noxious weeds. To continue with certification the field must then be re-inspected at another \$2 per acre cost. A list of all noxious weeds is available in the NCIA standards or from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Seed Improvement Conference

The 2017 Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference was held January 16-18 at the Ramada Conference Center, Kearney.

The Awards Banquet was sponsored by AgriPro Syngenta, Colorado Wheat Research Foundation, Husker Genetics, Limagrain Cereal Seeds, Nebraska Wheat Board, and WesBred/Monsanto.



Green Cover Seed of Bladen, was honored as the **2016 Premier Seed Grower.** This award is given to a Nebraska seed enterprise for outstanding achievement in certified seed production and

marketing.

Green Cover Seed was formed in 2009 by brothers Brian and Keith Berns. Brian and Keith are third-generation farmers and farm 2,000 acres of irrigated and dryland crops and run a 50 head cow/calf operation.

From the mid-90's until 2011, the farm raised certified seed wheat. In 2011 they began growing triticale and rye for their new cover crop business, Green Cover Seed.

They have also grown spring peas, vetch, winter and spring barley, oats, forage wheat, sunflowers, safflower, BMR grazing corn, and okra for seed production. As the cover crop business has grown, they now contract with other farmers, many of them current customers, to grow seed for them. They have seed production in more than 10 different states. Green Cover Seed also has their own cleaning facility and clean over 20 different types of crops. Green Cover Seed employs over 20 full-time employees and an additional 6-10 part-time during the summer.

Brian and Keith's message has always remained the same. It's all about the soil. Healthy soil produces healthy plants and animals, which feeds healthy people.

Green Cover Seed is a family-run, faith-based company that believes God created the soil to be a thriving, living ecosystem that He has entrusted to mankind. With this purpose in mind, Green Cover Seed is introducing their newest endeavor, a composting business. They will be providing farmers and ranchers with another tool to help them in their quest of improving their soil and environment for generations to come.

Thirty year members recognized were Dunbar Seed, Eustis; Mycogen Plant Sciences, York; W.A. Lafleur & Sons, Madison; Frenchman Valley Farmer Coop, Imperial; Trinidad/Benham, Bridgeport; Heritage Seed Co. Inc., Crawford; C & H Mills Farms, Murdock and Richmond Farms, Grant. These members have been active members over a 30 year period.

NCIA Board Reorganizes

Rick Dunbar, Eustis, was elected to serve his first term on the board representing District 3. Harlan Husa, Heron, was re-elected to District 2. The board elected a slate of officers for 2017. **Ryan Peters** was elected president, **Harlan Husa** vice-president, and **Emery Fox** Treasurer. **Joel Maschmann** was appointed as Chair of the Committee of Management for NuPride. **Dennis Bracht** was appointed board representative to the Nebraska Seed Trade Association Advisory Committee. **Dennis Bracht**, will serve as the NSTA representative to the NCIA board. Other board members include **Chris Cullan**, **Andre Hoyt** and **Roch Gaussoin**.

2018 Seed Improvement Conference

The 25th annual Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference brings together the memberships of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association and the Nebraska Seed Trade Association. It will be held January 15 - 17, 2018, at The Embassy Suites in Lincoln.

Seed ID – Palmer Amaranth

*Doug Miller, Executive Director
Illinois Crop Improvement Association*

It is a misnomer that Palmer amaranth can be definitely identified by visual analysis of the seed. The NRCS website lists 49 *Amaranthus* species. Other weedy members of the genus include smooth pigweed, redroot pigweed, Powell amaranth, spiny amaranth, tumble pigweed, prostrate pigweed and waterhemp. These amaranths have similar seed morphology requiring additional analysis to definitively differentiate seed to the species level. However, seed analysts are being asked to analyze samples of feed, seed, and other agricultural commodities originating from areas where Palmer amaranth is common. Currently the seedling growout method is the most readily available technique for identification to the species level. Molecular testing of leaf tissue samples can be performed (University of Illinois) and the direct testing of *Amaranthus* seeds appears promising but is still under development (California Department of Food & Agriculture). Time, space and cost make any identification technique an added investment to seed testing.

Nebraska Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2017
Kearney, NE

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Ryan Peters, President.
- It was determined that a quorum of the membership was present.
- The agenda was reviewed. **It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**
- **It was moved and as presented. Motion carried.**
- Emery Fox gave a preliminary treasurer's report. NCIA started with an approved budget of \$555,000. Total income was \$708,409, expenses were \$597,645 for a net gain of \$110,764. These are all preliminary numbers. **It was moved and seconded to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried.**
- The Nominating Committee report was presented. Rick Dunbar will run for the open District 3. Peters asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Harlan Husa will run for re-election for District 2. Peters asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. **It was moved and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.**
- Steve Knox gave a management report. Total acres for 2017 were up. Total acres inspected was 96,887. Wheat was down. Corn acres were up. Peas and phyto acres were up. Samples were good for 2016. For 2017 corn acres should be stable. Wheat should be down. The staff of four is working hard. Knox thanked the NCIA staff, members, and board.
- Steve Knox recognized Mark Spurgin as the outgoing board member and Ryan Peters as NCIA President.
- Steve Knox discussed the new online software which will be used in 2018. He updated the members on what they will need to use the program. Training will occur throughout 2017.
- Ryan Peters asked for old business. Peters remembered members who died in 2016.
- Dave Fuss asked for new business. There was no new business.
- **It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned.