

March 2020

## Dates & Events

### May 1

Field Applications - Winter & Spring Small Grains, Cool & Warm Grasses, Peas, Vetch

### May 25

Holiday - Office Closed

### June 10

Field Applications - Corn

### July 1

Field Applications - Millet, Sorghum

### July 3

Holiday - Office Closed

### August 1

Field Applications - Soybeans

### September 7

Holiday - Office Closed

### November 26-27

Holiday - Office Closed

### December 24-31

Holiday - Office Closed

### January 1, 2021

Holiday - Office Closed

### January 11-13, 2021

Seed Improvement Conference - Younes Center, Kearney, NE

## Office Hours

Our hope is that all of you are in good health and safe from the health concerns that we are dealing with currently. The University of Nebraska has extended spring break for students to give faculty time to prepare to teaching classes online. We want to assure you the NCIA office is **open for business** and ready to respond to any of your seed needs or questions you may have. If this changes, information will be shared via emails.

## Nebraska Seed Tracking System

From this point on, ALL bulk sales and pending sales (transfer in dirt) for new crop must be done through the NSTS. Please contact the office if you need help to walk through doing it the first time. Carryover seed (seed produced prior to 2019) will still be done on paper forms.

Now is a good time to login to the tracking system and apply for your fields of your fall planted seed crops. No fields will be invoiced until after the due date of May 1, 2020.

Also, **the NSTS needs to have the weight of your lot.** Please include it with your seed sample. Bulk sale certificates or labels cannot be made **if this weight is not entered.**

Please call the office with any questions regarding this new software program.

## Field Application Due Dates

Small Grains, Grass, Peas	May 1
Corn	June 10
Millet, Dry Edible Beans	July 1
Soybeans	August 1

## Seed Improvement Conference

The 2020 Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference was held January 13-15 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln.

The Scholarship Lunch was sponsored by CoAxium Wheat Production Systems.

The Awards Banquet was sponsored by ERIKS, Husker Genetics, Limagrain Cereal Seeds, Nebraska Wheat Board, Stock Seed Farms, Syngenta AgriPro, and WestBred.

**Duane Muhlbach, Muhlbach Seeds,** Ravenna, Nebraska, was honored as the **2019 Premier Seed Grower.** This award is given to a Nebraska seed enterprise for outstanding achievement in certified seed production and marketing.

"I have been a farmer all of my life. In receiving this award, I am proud to represent the many farmers who have received this award, including my



father, the farmers across the state participating in this program as well as those in my community. I have been fortunate to be a part of NCIA for fifty years and will further their mission of promoting agricultural diversity, productivity, and sustainability while providing quality and innovation for those who feed the world. I am grateful for the support of my family and friends," said Duane Muhlbach.

For over 50 years Muhlbach Seeds has operated in Ravenna, Nebraska. After purchasing his first round of Foundation Seed in the 1960s, Duane planted, harvested, and sold his first crop of wheat. For the last fifty years, they have grown and sold Certified Seed, primarily oats and wheat. Since its inception, Muhlbach Seeds has been solely operated by the Muhlbach family without outside help.

Muhlbach plants and harvests wheat each year. In addition, he cleans all the seed himself and in turn sells most of the seed in bulk. Many of his customers have been loyal since the 1980s coming from the surrounding counties. His customers consist of his friends, family, and former classmates from high school and college.

Muhlbach is also active in his community and has been part of the Ravenna City Council, Buffalo County Trails and Rails Museum, and the Lions Club where he received the Melvin Jones Award in 1997. Duane has dedicated much of his life to his family and farming, spending a majority of his time caring for the family farm and seed business.

**Thirty year members** were recognized at the Awards Banquet. They were Kirk Foster, Berwyn; Von Johnson, Cambridge; and Nelson Certified Seed (Conrad Nelson), Wallace. These members have been active members of NCIA for a 30 year period.

## NCIA Board Reorganizes

**Conrad Nelson**, Wallace, and **Ruben Wehnes**, Inland, were elected to serve on the board representing District 3 and 2. The board elected a slate of officers for 2020. **Emery Fox** was elected president, **Dave Rezac** vice-president, and **Jim Girardin** treasurer. **Chris Cullan** was appointed as Chair of the Committee of Management for NuPride. **Stan Friesen**, will serve as the NSTA representative to the NCIA board. Other board members include **Jeff Olson** and **Roch Gaussoin**.

## 2021 Seed Improvement Conference

The 28<sup>th</sup> 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 11 - 13, 2021, at The Younes Center in Kearney.

## Seed Source Verification

Seed source requires official documentation when making application for field inspections. A basic principle of certification, and a key aspect of traceability, is that seed moves with an official label. An official label, whether a tag, label, or certificate, is issued by the state agency that has certified the seed. This document is how certification agencies communicate with each other to track seed. The official document, no matter if a tag, label, or certificate must be issued by the certification agency. A **tote placard is not an official label**, regardless of how well it is designed or how complete the information on it, unless, there is an official label attached to it. Everyone involved with certified seed should recognize an official document and be advised on the need to retain the seed labels.

## Nebraska Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2020, Lincoln, NE

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Harlan Husa.
- 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 seconded to approve the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting as presented. Motion carried.**
- Rick Dunbar gave a preliminary treasurer's report. NCIA started with an approved budget of \$489,500. Total income was \$453,989. Expenses were \$551,149 for a net loss of \$97,275 (after investments). These are preliminary numbers. **It was moved and seconded to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried.**
- The Nominating Committee report was presented. Ruben Wehnes will run for the open District 2 position. Conrad Nelson will run for the open District 3 position. Husa 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 2019 were the lowest since 1988. Total acres inspected were 45,007. Corn saw the largest drop again decreased another 6,189 in 2019. The seed lab samples have been stable this year, but income is down due to the variation of tests. Twenty IRM inspections were completed. Knox expects corn acres to increase and wheat to be stable. Knox thanked the NCIA staff, members, and board.
- Steve Knox recognized Harlan Husa as the outgoing NCIA President and an outgoing board member. He also recognized Rick Dunbar as out going board members.
- Steve Knox discussed the changes to the standards. Foundation seed sold in bulk bags must be tied with a Foundation bulk tie.
- An education update was held. The NSTS was reviewed, and questions and ideas from the membership were discussed.
- Harlan Husa asked for old business. There was no old business.
- Harlan Husa asked for new business. Changes to the Bylaws were presented to the membership. **It was moved and seconded to approve bylaw changes as presented. Motion carried.**
- **It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned.