



NEBRASKA SEED FOCUS

*A Publication of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association
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NEBRASKA

SEED IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

January 12-13, 2026

Courtyard by Marriott - LaVista, NE

Cody Harris Earns the Designation of Certified Viability Technologist

Cody Harris recently passed the viability portion of the Registered Seed Technologist (RST) exam with a score of 92%, earning the title of Certified Viability Technologist (CVT). The viability portion of the exam assesses an analyst's ability to determine the germination potential of seeds and evaluate the overall quality of seed lots—critical skills for growers and members relying on accurate seed testing.

Cody's achievement reflects years of hands-on lab experience, participation in seed science workshops, completion of the Seed Science and Technology Certificate Program through Colorado State University, mentoring, and countless hours of independent study. He successfully completed this challenging exam on his first attempt.

Cody is now preparing for the purity portion of the RST exam, scheduled for early next May, the final step toward full RST certification.

His dedication and expertise help ensure that NCIA members continue to receive reliable and professional seed testing services.

Congratulations to Cody on this milestone!

DATES and EVENTS

*November 27-28
Holiday - Office Closed*

*December 1
Disposition Reports Due
Fall Small Grains, Grasses*

*December 9
NCIA Board Meeting*

*December 24-January 2
NCIA and UNL Closed*

*January 12-13
NE Seed Improvement Conference
Courtyard by Marriott
LaVista, NE*

*January 19
NCIA and UNL Closed*

Helping Customers See the Value in Certified Seed

When talking with customers about Certified Seed, the key is showing why it's worth the investment. Certified Seed consistently offers better quality, reliability, and yield potential than bin-run grain because of the standards built into every step of the process—seed source, field inspections, cleaning, and lab testing.

Certified production begins with Foundation or Registered class seed, both carefully managed for genetic purity. Fields are rogued to remove off-types, and inspectors confirm they meet certification standards. After harvest, the seed is professionally cleaned and conditioned to eliminate debris and weed seed, then tested in the lab for germination and purity. The result is seed customers can trust to deliver uniform stands, healthier plants, and stronger yields.

For growers, this means less risk, more confidence, and better performance in the field. By highlighting these benefits, NCIA members can show why Certified Seed isn't just another option—it's the smart business decision that protects a farmer's investment and helps set your seed business apart.

2026 Seed Improvement Conference

The 33rd annual Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference will bring together the memberships of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association and the Nebraska Seed Trade Association. It will be held January 12-13, 2026, at Courtyard by Marriott, LaVista, Nebraska.

Harvest and Sample Weights

All 2025 fields must have their harvest weights entered into the NSTS right after harvest before samples are received. To enter the pounds harvested from each field, Click on "field inspections" and then "update field yield". Under left top column "Supply Fields" update total pounds under "Seed (Actual)".

When samples are sent in for testing, we must have the total pounds represented by the seed sample. If fields are combined and a sample is submitted, include each field name and total pounds of seed used from each field.

Inspected Acres 2025 (does not include Foundation Seed Division)

Crop	2025	2024	Change
Field Peas	1,590	2,001	-411
Grasses - Total	741	710	
Cool Season	127	203	+31
Warm Season	614	507	
Hybrid Corn	21,625	20,137	+1,488
Millet	1,756	2,081	-325
Miscellaneous	213	65	+148
Oats	2,327	4,058	-1,731
Phytosanitary	4,646	6,943	-2,297
Soybeans - Total	1,220	1,360	
Certified	130	52	-140
Quality Assurance	1,090	1,308	
Winter Triticale	1,916	2,725	-809
Wheat - Total	18,273	22,177	
Hard Red Winter	16,571	20,560	-3,904
Hard White Winter	1,559	1,400	
Soft Red Winter	143	217	
Totals	54,307	62,257	-7,950