



# Nebraska Seed Focus

A publication by the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association

December 2024

## Dates & Events

### December 21 - 31

Holiday - Office Closed

### January 1

Holiday - Office Closed

### January 13-15

Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference, Holiday Inn, Kearney

### May 1

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

### May 26

Holiday - Office Closed

### June 1

Field Applications - Corn

### July 1

Field Applications - Millet, Sorghum, Soybeans, Chickpeas

### July 4

Holiday - Office Closed

### August 1

Sales Due - Spring Small Grains, Millet, Peas, Soybeans,

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Nebraska Crop Improvement Association  
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## NCIA Seed Laboratory Update

We would like to inform you that Lynn Robinson is no longer with NCIA. We are actively searching for a qualified Registered Seed Technologist and will keep you updated throughout the process.

In the interim, Cody Harris will continue to support the lab. However, testing of certified native grasses and turf grasses is temporarily suspended. Please send these samples to the following seed labs for testing:

### South Dakota State University Seed Laboratory

SDSU Seed Testing Laboratory  
Box 2100A, Raven Precision Agriculture  
Center 140  
Brookings, SD 57007  
Phone: (605) 688-5181  
Email: [sdsu.seedlab1@sdsu.edu](mailto:sdsu.seedlab1@sdsu.edu)

### Iowa State University Seed Laboratory

109 Seed Science Center  
2115 Osborn Drive, ISU  
Ames, IA 50011  
Phone: 515.294.6826  
Email: [seedlab@iastate.edu](mailto:seedlab@iastate.edu)

NCIA will continue to process certified and non-certified samples of small grains, soybeans, peas, field beans, chickpeas, corn, and sugar beets as usual.

Please have lab reports from these external labs sent directly to:

Nebraska Crop Improvement Association  
268 Plant Sciences Hall  
P.O. Box 830911  
Lincoln, NE 68583  
Email: [dbrestel2@unl.edu](mailto:dbrestel2@unl.edu)

## 2025 Seed Improvement Conference

The Staff and Board of Directors would like to invite all of the members of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association (NCIA) and Nebraska Seed Trade Association (NSTA) to join us at Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center in Kearney on **January 13-15** for the 2025 Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference. The annual conference brings together members of both Associations for educational presentations, business meetings, and interaction with colleagues. Excellent speakers and a trade show that will address issues that impact your seed enterprise will highlight the conference.

Monday we will start with a tour of **Ward Laboratories** in Kearney. The tour will start at 1:00 p.m. at 4007 Cherry Avenue. If you would like to car pool, the NCIA vehicle will leave the hotel at 12:30 p.m. The NSTA Past Presidents Reception will begin back at the hotel at 6:00 p.m. followed by trivia night at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday will begin with NCIA Annual Meeting and member education Q & A at 9:00. **Note this is a change of day for the NCIA annual meeting.**

Tuesday will also include the following slate of topics and updates.

**Seed Treatment Application Concepts & Operational Performance** - Jake Hansen, Syngenta

**Farm Bill Update or Succession Planning** - Shannon Sand, UNL Extension

**NDA update** - Trevor Johnson, NDA Program Manager

**Small Grains Breeding Update** - Katherine Frels, UNL Agronomy and Horticulture

**Cover Crops** - Junior Pfansteil, Practical Farmer of Iowa

**Variety Testing & Dryland Cropping Systems** - Amanda Easterly, UNL Agronomy and Horticulture

The evening will wrap up with a social hour and banquet which includes scholarships and award presentations.

Wednesday will start at 8:30 with the Nupride Genetics Network annual meeting. The Nebraska Seed Trade Association annual meeting. **This is a new date and time for the NSTA meeting.**

For questions regarding the program or registration information, contact the NCIA by phone 402-472-1444 or email [dbrestel@unl.edu](mailto:dbrestel@unl.edu).

Lodging reservations can be made by calling 1-308-234-2212 and asking for the Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference rate. Room rates are \$119.95.

**Hope to see all of you in Kearney!**

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# Tentative Schedule

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## *Monday, January 13*

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- Noon Registration opens
- 1:00 Tour - Ward Laboratories - 4007 Cherry Avenue
- 6:00 NSTA Past Presidents Reception/Social Hour
- 7:00 Askin' Nebraskan trivia night
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## *Tuesday, January 14*

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- 8:00 Registration and Trade Show
- 9:00 NCIA Annual Meeting and Member Education Q & A
- 10:30 Break/Trade Show
- 11:00 Seed Treatment Application Concepts & Operational Performance - Jake Hansen, Syngenta
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 Succession Planning - Shannon Sand, University of Nebraska Extension
- 2:00 University of Nebraska Small Grains Breeding Update - Katherine Frels, UNL Agronomy and Horticulture
- 3:00 Break/Trade Show
- 3:45 What Works and What Doesn't with Cover Crops - Junior Pfansteil, Practical Farmers of Iowa
- 4:30 Use of Statistical Modeling in Variety Testing- Amanda Easterly, UNL Agronomy and Horticulture
- 6:00 Social Hour
- 7:00 Awards Banquet
- NCIA/NSTA scholarships, 30-year Membership Awards, Premier Seed Grower, Presidential Award of Excellence, and Distinguished Service Award
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## *Wednesday, January 15*

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- 8:30 NuPride Genetics Network Annual Meeting
- 9:00 Nebraska Seed Trade Association Annual Meeting & Board Meeting
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This is your official notice of the NCIA Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center, Kearney. Election of two board members for State-at-Large and re-election for District 1, financial reports, and continuing education are on the agenda.