



NEBRASKA SEED FOCUS

*A Publication of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association
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2026 Seed Improvement Conference

The 2026 Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference was held January 12-13 in La Vista.

Monday started with a tour of the CLASS of America plant and ended with a corn hole tournament. Tuesday was a day of meeting, speakers, and awards.

Established in 1941, the **Premier Seed Grower Award** is presented each year to a Nebraska seed producer in recognition of excellence in certified seed production and marketing.

Paul Rezac of Rezac Seed was awarded the 2025 NCIA Premier Seed Grower award.

Paul represents a farming legacy that spans more than 100 years on the original Rezac homestead.

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, Paul was raised in agriculture, learning early the values of hard work, stewardship, and commitment to quality.

Farming for Paul has always been a family effort. Working alongside his family, Paul learned firsthand what it means to build a business rooted in trust, reliability, and long-term relationships.

(Continued on page 2)

DATES and EVENTS

May 1
Field Applications - Small Grains, Grasses, Peas

May 25
Office and UNL Closed

June 1
Field Applications - Corn

July 1
Field Applications - Millet, Soybeans, Chickpeas

July 3
Office and UNL Closed

August 1
Sales Reports - Spring Grains, Millet, Peas, Soybeans, Chickpeas

August 20
NCIA Board Meeting

August 21
Pushing Your Wheat Yields

Paul graduated from East Butler High School and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Business from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

After college, he returned home full-time in 2016, and by 2021, assumed full management of the entire farm and seed operation.

Today, Paul manages approximately 1,000 acres, producing corn, soybeans, winter wheat, and oats.

His responsibilities include seed variety selection, agronomic decision-making, chemical and fertilizer programs, grain marketing, and equipment maintenance.

The Rezac family has operated a seed business since 1990 with NCIA membership spanning 47 years and approved conditioner status for 35 years.

Paul now manages seed cleaning, bagging, billing, reporting, and customer relations—while continuing to expand the custom cleaning business.

The operation raises and processes certified oats, winter wheat, and Nupride soybeans.

Recent varieties include Siege and Ruth wheat; Hayden, Rushmore, and Jerry oats; and 9300E3 and 9314E3 soybeans.

Paul has expanded the customer base through custom drilling, cleaning, and specialty products such as bagged deer corn—a venture that exceeded sales goals in its first two years and continues to grow.

Paul and his wife Skye are raising their daughters, Rose, June, and Laura, on the family farm, making them the fifth generation of Rezacs raised on the original homestead.

Paul serves as Secretary of the Valparaiso Businessman's Association, is an active member of St. Vitus Church, and participates in the PTA at St. John Nepomucene School in Weston.

Through certified seed, accountability, and customer trust, Rezac Seed continues to deliver proven performance year after year.

Williams Lawn Seed was recognized as a **30-Year Member**.

Scholarship winners were recognized. Marissa Langer was awarded the Dennis Thompson scholarship. The Agricultural Seed Industry scholarship was given to Sara Treffer. The Nebraska Certified Seed scholarship was awarded to Lorena Silva. The NCIA Upperclassman scholarship was awarded to Braydon Binger.

Field Inspections

As spring approaches, we are preparing for another busy summer inspection season. Now is a good time to get all your field applications finished in the Nebraska Seed Tracking System (NSTS). Small grains, peas, and grass applications are due on May 1. Even if you are not sure you will use a field for seed this year, apply for it now — you can remove it before the field is inspected without paying inspection fees. Be sure to upload your official seed source documentation right away. Double-check your field maps for accuracy. As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to our office. We look forward to a successful summer!

Preparing Fields: Preparing small grain fields for inspection is crucial for certification. Here's what you need to know:

- **Timely Inspection** – Fields can be inspected any time after heading and before harvest. Failure to schedule timely inspections can eliminate these fields from certification.
- **Notification** – You should receive notice from your inspector at least two days prior. If this isn't happening, please contact the NCIA office.
- **Rejection & Re-inspection** – If your field isn't ready, it may be rejected. Correctable issues will require re-inspection. Submit the reinspection required form to the office. An additional fee of \$3.50 per acre will apply.
- **Isolation & Definition** – Fields must be clearly defined and properly isolated per certification standards. Small grains require at least ten feet of isolation from the different varieties of the same crop. Handle this before inspection to avoid extra costs.
- **Roguing** – Roguing is strongly recommended before inspection (best after heading when off-types and other crops are easiest to spot).
- **Weed and Other Crop Management** – Fields with significant inseparable Primary or Prohibited Noxious weeds bearing seed may be rejected. If the seed-producing parts are destroyed before inspection, the field may still be approved.
- **Continued Certification** – Any items that cause the certification standards to not be met must be corrected and verified. Re-inspection for corrections costs another \$3.50 per acre.

Nebraska Crop Improvement Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026
La Vista, NE

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Ruben Wehnes, 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 seconded to approve the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting as presented. **Motion carried.**

Reports

Conrad Nelson gave a preliminary treasurer’s report. NCIA’s total budget income was \$701,646. Expenses were \$682,200 for a net gain of \$145,182. These are all preliminary numbers. It was moved and seconded to approve treasurer’s report. **Motion carried.**

Pageler gave an NuPride report. Total fixed assets are \$725,124 down approximately 44%. This is due to money being transferred to NCIA to establish and scholarship/grant fund. Soybean sales were down slightly. All NGN business is with soybeans.

The Nominating Committee report was presented. Ruben Wehnes and Conrad Nelson both agreed to run for re-election. Wehnes asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. It was moved and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Wehnes asked for old business. There was no old business.

New Business

The were no actions, resolutions, or proposals.

Pageler gave a management report. There has been an upward trend in inspected acres the last few year. However 2025 was down approximately 8,000 acres. Corn acres were up 1,500. Wheat, soybeans, oats, triticale, peas, and phyto acres were all down. Grasses are steady. Seed sales for 2025 were up slightly.

The lab processed 1,690 samples. This is down from the 3-year average. Cody Harris passed the germination portion of the RST exam. He will take the purity test in May.

Pageler reviewed the financial statement for 2025.

Pageler recognized Ruben Wehnes as the 2025 president.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned.

2025 Annual Report

The audit is complete and the annual report is available. Contact to office if you would like a copy.

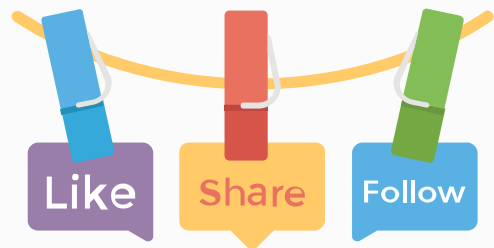


Field Applications

- Small Grains, Grass, Field Peas - May 1
- Corn - June 1
- Millet, Chickpeas, Soybeans - July 1

Sales Disposition

- Spring Small Grains, Millet,
Peas, Soybeans, Chickpeas - August 1



NCIA IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. CHECK US OUT.

