

March 2024

Dates & Events

May 1

Field Applications - Small Grains, Peas, Grasses

May 27

Holiday - Office Closed

June 1

Field Applications - Corn

July 1

Field Applications - Millet, Soybeans, Chickpeas

July 4

Holiday - Office Closed

August 1

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

August 12

Board Meeting - Broken Bow

September 1

Sales Disposition - Chickpeas

September 2

Holiday - Office Closed

November 28-29

Holiday - Office Closed

December 1

Sales Disposition - Winter Small Grains, Grasses

December 6

Board Meeting - Lincoln

December 23-31

Holiday - Office Closed

January 1

Holiday - Office Closed

January 13-15, 2025

Seed Improvement Conference - Holiday Inn, Kearney

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Field Applications

Small grains, peas, and grass applications are due May 1. To avoid any late fees please enter them in the Seed Tracking System (www.nci.cert.org) by this date. **All information must be entered and submitted by May 1 to avoid the late fee.**

Reminder, if you purchased your seed source from another company, an official certified seed tag or bulk sale certificate must be uploaded. **Fields will not be approved for inspection without proof of seed source. Pallet sheets will not work as a seed source.**

If you are producing foundation seed for seed companies, a letter from the seed company giving approval must be emailed to dbrestel@unl.edu by May 1.

Seedstocks

Seed stock sourced outside a member's production must be verified as eligible for use to produce certified seed. Here are the key aspects of seed source verification:

- Official Documentation Requirement:** When applying for field inspections, seed sources used must be documented by providing an official certification label. This documentation serves as the foundation of certification and is essential for verifying the seed stock you are using has been certified and is of the correct class.
- Movement with Official Label:** Certified seeds must always be accompanied by an official label issued by the state agency responsible for certification. Whether it's a tag or certificate, this official label indicates that the seed has met the necessary standards and can be traced back to its source.
- Issuance by Certification Agency:** Only certification agencies have the authority to issue official labels. This ensures that the labeling process is regulated and standardized, maintaining the integrity of the certification system.
- Tote Placard Clarification:** While tote placards may contain detailed information about the seeds, they are not considered official labels unless accompanied by an official label issued by the certification agency. This distinction is crucial for accurately identifying certified seed.

- Recognition and Retention:** Retaining these labels ensures traceability and compliance with certification standards, enabling accountability and transparency throughout the process.

Labeling Treated Seed

When selling both treated and untreated seeds, it's important to adhere to Federal Seed Law regulations:

- Use distinct lot numbers and labels for treated and untreated batches.
- Submit samples that accurately represent the seed as it is being sold to the customer, including any treatments.
- Clearly label seed treatments for proper processing by the seed testing lab.

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 lead to the rejection of fields from certification.
- Notification and Communication:** Expect notification from the inspector at least two days before the inspection. If you are not receiving satisfactory communication from your inspector, contact the NCIA office to address any issues.
- Rejection and Re-inspection:** Unprepared fields may face rejection. Correctable issues may require re-inspection for certification. A re-inspection can be scheduled by submitting the "reinspection required" form to the NCIA office, but it will incur an additional fee of \$3.50 per acre.
- Field Isolation and Definition:** Fields must adhere to current certification standards, including proper isolation from the same crop. Ensure at least ten feet of isolation. Properly define and isolate fields to avoid costly re-inspections.
- Roguing:** Roguing, or removal of undesirable plants, is recommended before inspection, especially after heading when off-types and other crops are easily detected.

6. **Weed Management:** Fields with excessive weeds may be rejected if inspection becomes difficult. A significant level of Primary or Prohibited Noxious weeds can disqualify fields from certification if it is determined the weed seed is inseparable from the seed crop.
7. **Continued Certification:** Correct any non-conforming issues to continue with certification. Confirmation of corrections may require re-inspection, incurring additional costs.

Review the Nebraska General Seed Certification Standards and Crop Certification Standards for further details. The current standards are available at <https://necrop.org/publications#standards>

Seed Improvement Conference

The 2024 Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference was held January 8-10 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln.

The 2023 **NCIA Premier Seed Grower** was awarded to Randy Peters of Peters Seed Farms.

Randy's journey began over 60 years ago, marked by a modest start in 1973 with the purchase of a few heifers and 160 acres.

Today, Randy, in collaboration with his family, oversees 20,000 acres of farm and ranch ground.

The establishment of a cutting-edge seed-cleaning facility in 2011 underlines Randy's commitment to quality. With over 50 years of experience, their expertise in raising wheat varieties has become a local benchmark.

Randy's influence extends to industry-level participation. His involvement in various boards, including those dedicated to wheat and agriculture, showcases a commitment to the broader agricultural landscape.

Randy's farm is not just a plot of land. It's a classroom. For more than 30 years, he's opened his fields to host UNL winter wheat varieties test plots, sharing insights and advancements with local farmers.

Amid the complexities of agriculture, Randy adheres to a straightforward philosophy for success—"provide a quality product at a reasonable price, coupled with outstanding service."

Married to Elaine, Randy's dedication to farming has transcended generations. His children and grandchildren actively participate in the family operation, ensuring the operation continues for years to come.

Congratulations to Peters Seed Farms.

Thirty-year member was recognized. Dave Stock Farms LLC, Murdock, has been an active member of NCIA for a 30 year period.

Scholarship winners were recognized. Madeline Weber of St. Charles, MO, received the Dennis Thompson Scholarship. Lauren Wilson, Omaha, was the recipient of the Upper Classman scholarship.



NCIA Board Reorganizes

Duane Muhlbach was re-elected to his State-at-Large position. **Leon Kriesel** was elected to the board representing District 4. The board elected a slate of officers for 2024. **Jim Girardin** was elected president, **Ruben Wehnes** vice-president, and **Conrad Nelson** treasurer. **Chris Cullan** was appointed as Chair of the Committee of Management for NuPride. **Mike Fritz** will serve as the NSTA representative to the NCIA board. Other board members include **Eric Nelson**, **Dr. Martha Mamo**, and **Dr. Mike Boehm**.

2025 Seed Improvement Conference

The 32nd 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 13-15, 2025, at the Holiday Inn in Kearney.

Nebraska Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting Minutes January 10, 2024, Lincoln, NE

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Emery Fox, 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 2023 annual meeting as presented. Motion carried.**
- Ruben Wehnes gave a preliminary treasurer's report. NCIA's total income was \$671,994. Expenses were \$559,666 for a net gain of \$108,129. These are all preliminary numbers. **It was moved and seconded to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried.**
- Pageler gave an NGN Committee of Management report. Chris Cullan was recommended as the Chair for 2024. Ruben Wehnes was appointed to fill a vacant spot and will serve the remainder of the term. Paul Rezac was elected as a new member. Sales and financial reports were reviewed.
- The Nominating Committee report was presented. Duane Muhlbach will run for re-election as State-at-Large. Leon Kriesel was nominated for District 4 position. Fox asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. **It was moved and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.**
- Emery Fox asked for old business. There was no old business.
- Emery Fox asked for new business. There was no new business.
- Pageler gave a management report. 2023 saw the highest net income since 2016. This is due to increased acres. Lab sample numbers are up around 700. This is the 5th year using the NSTS. A new agreement with

IANR has been completed. This has not been completed since 1949.

The approved budget and financial reports were reviewed and discussed.

Pageler recognized Emery Fox as the past president and out going board member. Emery Fox recognized Steve Pageler for 15 years of service to NCIA.

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

Field Application Due Dates

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

Sales Disposition Due Dates

Spring Small Grains, Peas Millet, Soybeans	August 1
Chickpeas	September 1
Winter Small Grains, Grasses	December 1