

June 2024

Dates & Events

July 1

Millet, Chickpea, Black-Eyed Peas, Soybeans Applications

July 4

Holiday - Office Closed

July 15

Sales Reports - NuPride Soybeans

August 1

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

September 2

Holiday - Office Closed

November 28-29

Holiday - Office Closed

December 23-31

Holiday - Office Closed

January 1, 2025

Holiday - Office Closed

January 13-15, 2025

Seed Improvement Conference - Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

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Nebraska Crop Improvement Association
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Wheat Scab

Wheat scab, caused by *Fusarium* species like *Fusarium graminearum*, *F. culmorum*, and *F. avenaceum*, poses significant challenges for crop producers due to its impact on seed and grain quality. In addition to scab, these pathogens lead to various other issues like seed decay, seedling blight, and rot in wheat, corn, and sorghum.

Symptoms of wheat scab include premature blighting of spikelets, dull glumes, brown discoloration of the peduncle, and the presence of pink to orange fungus mycelium during warm, humid weather. Infected grains exhibit lightweight, shriveling, and chalky white to pink coloration.

Prevention and management strategies are crucial for controlling wheat scab. These include increasing airflow in combines to remove infected kernels, implementing crop rotations to break disease cycles, inspecting seed production fields, treating seed with appropriate fungicides containing benzimidazole or difenoconazole, and spraying the field with fungicide. The grain from suspect fields should be tested for mycotoxins by a professional laboratory to ensure safety and quality.

Seed Sampling and Testing

The NCIA reserves the right to establish the maximum size of a seed lot. For lots greater than 10,000 bushels, in addition to a representative sample for the entire lot, a representative sub-sample for every 10,000 bushels, or fraction thereof, must be submitted to NCIA for complete analysis before certification can be completed for the total lot. Each sub-sample must test within AOSA tolerances of the overall lot sample and conform to the minimum sample size for the crop being tested. It is recommended that the same variety harvested from different fields be maintained as separate lots.

Handling Certified Seed in Bulk

Bulk seed refers to seed when loose either in shipping vehicles or in storage, and not to seed in bags or other containers. An applicant may sell Certified class seed in the bulk to the consumer or

another certification member, except Associate members, for purposes of resale. A maximum of two physical movements of the certified seed in the bulk is permitted.

A Nebraska Bulk Sales Certificate must accompany each sale. Certificates are generated and printed from www.nciacert.org.

At the time of purchase each buyer must be given a copy of the official Nebraska Bulk Sales Certificate

Bagged Seed Sales

All classes of certified seed sold in bags must be sold in new bags that are sealed (in a manner that prevents reopening and reclosing without tampering being obvious) and have an official certification label properly affixed to each bag. All classes of certified seed sold in bulk bags must be sealed with an NCIA bulk tie. This will assure the purchaser the seed has not been compromised.

Reusable bulk boxes that can be sealed may be utilized for Certified class seed. Adequate cleaning procedures must be used to prevent contamination. The containers must be sealed with a NCIA bulk tie or NCIA lid lock on the slide gate and on opposite sides of the lid. The containers must be labeled in the same manner as bagged certified seed.

Bulk ties are available from the NCIA office for \$0.50 per tie plus shipping and handling.

Labeling Bagged Certified Seed

A seed lot will not be recognized as certified seed if it is received by the seed consumer without official certification labels as follows:

All official seed certification labels must conform to the color, size, and other specifications published in the current certification handbook of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies.

The official certification label must clearly identify the certifying agency, variety, kind, seed class, and lot number. Nebraska Certified Seed labels

may only be generated or printed by the NCIA office or from www.nciacert.org. Labels cannot be printed until a representative sample of the lot to be labeled has met or exceeded seed certification standards for that particular crop.

All classes of certified seed offered for sale in bags, or other containers that can be sealed must have an official certification label properly affixed (attached in a manner that prevents removal and re-attachment without tampering being obvious) to each bag or container.

Before The Inspector Arrives

1. Establish a Border around each field that is clearly marked and easily seen. Standards for small grains require certified seed to be separated from other varieties of the same crop by either an uncropped strip 10 feet wide or a 10-foot-wide strip equally divided between the two varieties to be discarded at the time of harvest. Please make sure there is a visible border or break between fields. **If borders are not defined at the time of inspection, the field may be rejected and subject to re-inspection at the full cost of another field inspection.**
2. Rogue fields to remove OTHER CROPS, especially those whose seeds are inseparable from the crop being inspected.
3. Check fields for presence of volunteer plants or obvious mixtures of OTHER VARIETIES. Detailed variety descriptions are available from NCIA.
4. Completely destroy or isolate area infestations of seed-bearing PRIMARY and PROHIBITED NOXIOUS and OBJECTIONABLE weeds. **The presence of uncontrolled Primary and/or Prohibited Noxious weeds bearing seed in any field at inspection will disqualify if for seed purposes and it may be subject to re-inspection at the full cost of another field inspection.**
5. Use adequate control measures to prevent excessive infestations of field by RESTRICTED NOXIOUS weeds. (Example: pennycress)
6. Provide timely management for any other correctable conditions that may affect seed quality (common weeds, diseases, insects, nutrient deficiency, field uniformity).

Field Cancellations

Only an applicant (not contract grower) may cancel a field or portion of a field. The applicant must contact the NCIA office and the inspector before the time of inspection.

Harvest Weights

After harvest, weights must be entered for all fields inspected. In the NSTS, go to Seed Sales and click on Seed Disposition Control Panel. Under Search & Sort type 2024 for the year. Click on Review #1. Under supplying fields seed column, click on "insert (lbs)" and enter the harvest weight for each field.

Producer Correction Required vs Re-Inspection Required

If your field inspection report indicates a correction is required, you will receive an email with a link to follow indicating where to enter the correction once it is completed. If an affidavit is also issued to further give you detail on the corrections needed, you will need to sign and date the affidavit, and send or scan and email it back to the NCIA office. If you receive a Re-Inspection Required report, you will need to decide if you want to try to correct the problem and have it re-inspected at the full cost of another field inspection or allow it to be rejected. Indicate your decision on the Re-inspection Required Report and send it in to the office. Once received any field that need to be reinspected will be communicated with your field inspector.

Below are instructions to enter your field corrections into the Nebraska Seed Tracking System. If an affidavit has been issued, you will still need to send the signed form to the NCIA office. To enter the corrections, follow these instructions:

Log into www.nciacert.org

1. Click on the Field Inspections tab
2. Click on the Fields Requiring Correction tab
3. Find the field that was corrected
4. Check the box indicating the field corrections have been made
5. Find the comment box and describe the corrections you made
6. Click the Save button

Addition of Fields

To add a field, you must contact the NCIA office (not the inspector) before the time inspections are made. **Fields will not be added when the inspector is at your fields.** You must apply for the field(s) and allow NCIA time to verify field information and produce an inspection form and assign it to the appropriate inspector. These fields will be subject to all fees including late fees.

Carryover and New Crop Testing

Now is the time to test your carry-over seed! The germ must be retested prior to any sales this fall. Seed is ineligible without the updated germ. Send in a sample of any carryover seed to get it updated. Be sure to include the field name and lot number to assist in processing your samples as rapidly as possible.

Newly harvested small grains require an extra 5 days to break the dormancy and will take essentially 14 days to test. Include the NCIA field name(s), total pounds in the seedlot (if more than 1 field include pounds from each field), and tests needed. If you don't put that information on the sample, it will delay the testing process. Call the office, and we will send you free seed sample bags!

Wheat Variety Trial Field Tours

<https://cropwatch.unl.edu/2024/unl-schedules-2024-wheat-variety-tours>

Thursday, June 13

High Plains Agricultural Lab, Cheyenne County, 8 a.m. MDT. Includes winter and early spring crop updates, sawfly, wheat TAPS projects, and lunch.

Directions: Meet at HPAL Shop. From Sidney, take Highway 385 north and turn west on Road 32 at the Huntsman Elevator. Turn north on the paved road just west of Road 111 to follow to Road 32N and stay on the north loop. The shop will be marked with signs. Park on the north side of the road in the grass parking lot. Transportation to field sites will be provided.

Cullan Farm Seed, Box Butte County

3:30 p.m. MDT for Irrigated Trial

Directions: From Hwy 2 (north of Alliance), turn north on Road 68 and follow to first pivot south of the farmstead. The plot is on the east side of the road in the northwest part of the pivot.

5 p.m. MDT for Rainfed Trial, followed by burger feed at Cullan Shop.

Directions: From Hwy 2 (north of Alliance), turn west on Hall Road. The plot area is about a half mile west of the intersection of Hall Road and Road 67 on the south side (third strip).

Friday, June 14

tenBensel Farm, Furnas County, 11 a.m. CDT. Grower-led.

Directions: From Arapahoe, head west and turn north on Road 422. The plot is half a mile south of Road 725 on the west side of the road. Look for trees just north of field access.

Peters Seed Farms, Red Willow County, 5 p.m. CDT.

Directions: Follow Highway 17 South out of Culbertson to Road 713. Turn left and go East on 713 for about four miles. The field is located on the south side of an irrigation canal and can be accessed by a trail road just past the large group of grain bins. The plot area is about a mile east of the turn for Peters' Shop on the south side of the road and canal.