



Missouri Crop Improvement Association

News and Notes

March/April 2019

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MCIA's News and Notes is designed to provide members and other interested individuals with information about MCIA programs and services, as well as timely access to information that impacts the seed industry and agriculture in general. Our format is structured to provide a brief introduction to topics of interest along with contact information or links to sources where you can obtain more detailed information. Many of the articles and items listed in this newsletter contain web addresses or hyperlinks by which you can obtain additional information. If you do not have internet access and would like additional information on any of the topics mentioned in this newsletter, please contact the MCIA office and we will forward you the information. Please feel free to contact the MCIA office if you have questions or suggestions for items to be included in future issues.

Soybean Quality Update

As of April 15, MCIA's seed testing laboratory has completed germination analysis on 2,269 soybean samples with an average germination of 87.05%, a decrease of 0.68% from the 87.73% reported in February. The 87.73% represents results from all three germination methods (rolled towel, treated towel and sand). The trend of marginal quality lots responding favorably to fungicide seed treatment has continued, especially in samples with minimal mechanical damage. The same holds true for germination tests on marginal lots conducted in sand versus rolled towels. Regular rolled towel germinations are averaging 86.09% on 1,284 samples, treated towel germinations are averaging 89.96% on 478 samples and sand germinations are averaging 87.10% on 507 samples. For comparison, Illinois Crop Improvement Association's lab is reporting an average regular germination average of 83.4% with an average sand germination average of 81.2%. Much like what we are seeing in MCIA's lab, ICIA is noting a marked increase in the amount of phomopsis (pod & stem blight) present in many of the samples they are testing.

Quality in general has declined slowly but steadily since harvest and visual quality is marginal at best in many instances and that is being extremely kind. As has been the case all along, we are seeing more disease than in recent years and the amount of mechanical damage has increased slightly over time as the soybeans cool down and lose moisture during storage. As reported in February, seed vigor (as measured by accelerated aging) continues to decline, particularly in diseased and damaged seed lots with marginal germination. Please feel free to contact the MCIA office if you have questions or concerns with regard to the quality of your 2018 soybean seed production.

2019 Small Grains Applications

Field inspection request applications for small grains and cereal crops were due at the MCIA office on April 15. We have had limited response to the deadline this year as would be expected when faced with spotty stands and questionable potential. A quick, unscientific survey of other seed certification agencies has revealed that many states are experiencing the same conditions as Missouri, especially across the soft red winter wheat producing states. It is estimated that certified seed acres will be down 20-30% in many areas. If this holds true, supplies are projected to be tight if there is any type of uptick in demand this fall. With that said, we are encouraging everyone to submit an inspection request for any production that is eligible for production as certified or quality assurance class seed and would ask that you submit your applications and supporting documentation as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Please remember that all fields may be cancelled without penalty up until the time of inspection. Please feel free to contact the MCIA office if you have any questions regarding the application process or the status of your 2019 wheat production fields.

Missouri Crop Improvement / Missouri Foundation Seeds 2019 Wheat Plots

Due to extremely wet weather last fall, we were unable to get MCIA's normal post control grow outs for the 2018 crop planted, meaning we will not have any of the traditional plots to observe this spring. Missouri Crop Improvement and Missouri Foundation Seeds will still offer MCIA members an opportunity to view new and existing wheat varieties in 2019, however, it will be in the form of Missouri Foundation Seeds production fields. If you are interested in looking at any of the new or existing wheat varieties, please contact the MCIA office so we can schedule a mutually agreeable time to take you to the production fields.

2019 Spring Seed Directory

A copy of the 2019 Missouri Spring Seed Directory is available on MCIA's web site (www.moseed.org). Please contact the MCIA office if you would like to receive additional copies of the printed version.

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Foundation Soybean Seed Orders

Missouri Foundation Seeds still has availability of good quality seed for several conventional and glyphosate tolerant soybean varieties. Please contact the Missouri Foundation Seed office at (573) 884-7333 to check on availability and pricing.

Missouri Prospective Plantings

Corn is projected at 3,500,000 acres, unchanged from 2018. Soybeans are projected at 5,500,000 acres, down 6% from 2018. Cotton is projected at 380,000 acres, up 17% from 2018. Rice is projected at 229,000 acres, up 2% from 2018. Winter wheat seeded in the fall of 2018 is estimated at 640,000 acres, down 14% from 2017. Oats are projected at 30,000 acres, down 14% from 2018. Projected harvest for all hay is 3,100,000 acres, up 1% from 2018. *(Source: Missouri Ag Statistics Service)*

NOTE – It is always a good idea to follow proper labeling protocol but in light of the issues experienced with the 2018 soybean crop we thought it would be appropriate to reprint the following article.

Sampling, Testing and Labeling Tolerances: How they Relate *(Larry Nees, Seed Administrator, Office of Indiana State Chemist)*

Seed testing and labeling are two mainstays mandated by law and a part of being in the seed business in this country. Our state and federal laws establish minimum labeling requirements to express seed quality and place responsibilities on the seedsman to have appropriate tests performed on each seed lot to determine the quality of seed products destined for distribution to customers.

Sampling is a very important factor in determining the quality of individual seed lots. Obtaining a representative sample of a seed lot, regardless of lot size, is always a challenge. And sample size has an impact on representative testing. If an entire seed lot could be tested its true value would definitely be ascertained. However, this is neither feasible nor ordinarily possible! Thus, in seed testing the quality of the lot must be determined from a sample that represents the entire lot but yet is small enough to allow for efficient testing by trained staff. Established sampling protocols take this into consideration to minimize variation.

Testing that's required by seed laws should be done by skilled analysts trained to evaluate seed quality using uniform procedures and guidelines. Testing protocols utilized should be those established by national and/or international organizations that promote testing uniformity. Using uniform and accepted procedures helps to minimize testing variation between laboratories and analysts.

Labeling requirements established by law set the minimum labeling factors representing the basic seed quality of each lot of seed sold. The labeler has the freedom to set label claims for the required quality factors. Claims should be truthful and accurate based on tests conducted on the seed. Since claims for purity and germination are considered "minimum" claims, the labeler should avoid using an exact test result as a claim. It's almost impossible to duplicate test results through repeated testing of the same sample or by testing additional samples of the same lot. Consequently, it's wise for a labeler to allow himself a bit of a cushion to account for variability in sampling and testing.

Tolerances – what are they, why do we have them, and how should they be utilized? These are utilized to account for the expected variation that occurs in sampling and testing. Perhaps we should call them "permitted analytical variation" when used to compare test results from different laboratories, or results from different subsamples of the same sample, or comparing one analyst to another. A guarantee for a particular component of seed quality should never be made based on an assumed "tolerance".

TOLERANCES SHOULD NEVER BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERMITTING LABELING TO SHOW HIGHER QUALITY THAN IS ACTUALLY FOUND BY THE TEST. THERE IS NO "LABELING TOLERANCE"! *(Reprinted with permission of IN Crop Improvement Assn)*

Calendar

May 27	Memorial Day – MCIA Office Closed	
June 5	LCS Wheat Field Day	Mexico, MO
June 6	LCS Wheat Field Day	Charleston, MO
June 15-19	2019 ASTA Policy & Leadership Development Conference	Denver, CO
June 24-27	2019 AOSCA Annual Meeting	Chicago, IL
June 28	Hamilton Native Outpost Pasture Walk	Elk Creek, MO
July 4	Independence Day – MCIA Office Closed	
July 11-12	2019 MO-AG Summer Meeting	Lake of the Ozarks
August 8-18	2019 Missouri State Fair	Sedalia

Reminder – Small Grains Applications Were Due at MCIA Office on April 15