



Missouri Crop Improvement Association News and Notes

November – 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.

Happy Thanksgiving

From all of us at the MCIA office, best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and joyous holiday season.

2018-19 Soybean and 2019 Wheat Royalty Refunds Deadline

It is that time of year when MCIA is in the process of reconciling and closing out the royalty accounts for soybeans and wheat. You may be eligible for a refund of royalties paid for soybean and/or wheat seed that you were unable to sell in 2018-19. In order to receive a refund, please return any unused soybean tags/labels to the MCIA office no later than November 30 and any wheat tags/labels to the MCIA office no later than December 13. Please indicate the number of tags/labels returned for each variety. **MCIA will not count your tags and labels for you.** Tags/labels received after the respective deadlines **will not** be eligible to receive a credit due to the fact that many genetics suppliers have moved up their deadlines for reporting and paying royalties.

REMINDER - any certified or quality assurance seed sold in bulk form should be accompanied by a bulk sales certificate. If you sold seed in bulk form without a certificate, please contact the MCIA office so we can insure the buyer receives the proper documentation. All bulk sales documentation should be submitted to the MCIA office no later than November 30.

2019 Soybean Quality Update

With fingers firmly crossed, we are pleased to report that as of November 22, the MCIA lab has tested 477 soybean samples with an average germination of 93.63% compared to an average germination of 88.11% on 406 samples tested on the same date in 2018. Unlike many of the previous seasons, seed quality appears excellent, albeit seed size appears to be running larger than normal in many areas. While early results are reason for optimism, it should be noted that most of the samples received and tested to date are from early harvested production that was harvested before the widespread frost/freeze event of late October and the several cycles of wetting/drying that have occurred since. We are just now starting to receive samples from later harvested production and it appears there is more disease and damage in those samples. Stay tuned to this space next month for another update.

For those producers that have preliminary samples showing lower than expected germination results, MCIA's seed testing lab offers optional sand germination and lab treated germination services. In some instances, we have seen higher sand germination results in samples with light seed borne infections and no mechanical damage. That said, we have also seen lower sand germination results in samples with severe disease infections and/or high mechanical damage. Lab treated germination testing can show the response of a sample to application of a standard fungicide treatment. MCIA is currently using a treatment package of CruiserMaxx Vibrance. Please feel free to contact the MCIA seed testing lab if you have questions or would like to discuss testing options for your 2019 soybean seed production.

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Vigor Testing for Soybeans

There are basically two types of vigor tests for soybean, namely a cold test or an accelerated aging (AA) test. Based on past experience, MCIA believes the AA test is a more reliable and repeatable tool for measuring vigor and predicting storability for soybeans than a cold test. We offer the AA test in house and can accommodate requests for cold tests through one of our partnerships with other seed testing labs.

AA tests should be conducted in conjunction with and compared to the results from a normal warm germination exam. High vigor lots should not exhibit more than a 5-10% spread between the 2 tests. Spreads over 10% indicate that the vigor level is dropping and the higher the spread, the lower the vigor. Please contact the MCIA office if you have questions or would like to discuss vigor testing in greater detail.

2020 Spring Seed Directory

We have already received a few inquiries at the MCIA office from producers looking for information on availability and sources of soybean seed for 2020 planting. Due to an extremely late harvest in many areas, we are just now processing the last of the field inspection reports and are in the process of compiling the information for the seed directory. Our intent is to have the final 2020 spring seed directory posted online by mid-December and a distributed via email to all MCIA active, affiliate and associate members with the January newsletter mailing. If anyone needs information with regard to availability and sources of seed prior to receiving your copy of the seed directory, please feel free to contact the MCIA office and we will be happy to provide you with the information you need.

Variety Testing Performance Results

Results from the University of Missouri's 2020 performance testing for corn and soybean are available via the internet at <http://varietytesting.missouri.edu/> or via a link under the Variety Trials tab on MCIA's website (www.mocrop.org). Feel free to contact the MCIA office if you would like to receive a printed copy once they become available.

Missouri Land Values up 4% on Average

University of Missouri Extension's recent land value survey shows that average land prices for non-irrigated cropland across the state increased about 4% or \$204 per acre from last year. The study shows averages of \$5,421 per acre for good non-irrigated cropland. Survey respondents rated good irrigated cropland at \$6,148 per acre, \$634 more per acre than last year. MU Extension economist Ray Massey says the web-based survey considered the average value of three classes of cropland and pasture as of July 2019. It also considered timberland as well as hunting and recreational land.

Demand remains strong and rental rates decreased little. Broadband internet expansion might influence some sales near metropolitan areas. Massey also points to low interest rates and low rates of return on "safe" investments such as certificates of deposit causing people to put their money in land. Bootheel area land topped statewide values at \$7,090 for good non-irrigated cropland and \$7,353 for good irrigated land while even poor cropland ranked at \$4,051. Respondents estimated good pastureland at a statewide average of \$3,174 per acre, up \$259 or 9% from 2018 estimates. Reported changes in value varied greatly, from a 6% decrease to a 22% increase. Pastureland in counties bordering the Missouri and Mississippi rivers showed the highest values. Hunting/recreational property in those same counties also ranked at the top, with timberland values at \$2,789 and hunting/recreational land values at \$2,700. Overall, Missouri hunting/recreational land and timberland posted a 12% increase in value. Central Missouri timber/hunting and recreational land grew the most in value, according to the survey, with a 32% positive change. Good cropland and pastureland in central Missouri posted upward changes of 22%.

The Lake of the Ozarks region posted the highest changes in land values in the state for timber/hunting and recreational land at 34%. The survey also reports a growing trend of buyers planning to farm the land themselves. As many as 62% of buyers plan to farm the land; 27% intend to rent out the land; 10% plan to use the land for non-farming purposes. Massey says survey respondents expect little change in land values in the coming year. "In 2018, the respondents to this survey expected land values to decrease slightly. This year, while some regions show decreases and some increases, the average value of cropland, pastureland, timberland and recreational land across the state is expected to hold where it is now," he says. Massey says 75% of responses came from lenders, 12% from farmers, 9% from rural appraisers and 4% from other occupations. For the complete report, go to extension2.missouri.edu/g401. (Source: Linda Geist – University of Missouri Extension)

Calendar

December 9-12	ASTA Corn, Sorghum & Soybean Seed Expo 2019	Chicago, IL
December 17-18	MU Crop Management Conference	Columbia, MO
December 24-26	MCIA Office Closed – Christmas Holiday	
January 1, 2020	MCIA Office Closed – New Year's Holiday	
January 13-15	Independent Professional Seed Association Annual Conference	Kansas City, MO
January 17-20	Southern Seed Association Annual Convention	Savannah, GA
February 1-4	ASTA Vegetable and Flower Seed Conference	Monterey, CA
February 4-6	Corn Belt Seed Conference	Indianapolis, IN
February 21-23	59 th Annual Western Farm Show	Kansas City, MO

Thanksgiving Office Hours

The MCIA office will be closed on November 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday. The office and seed lab will resume a regular schedule on Monday, December 2.