



Missouri Crop Improvement Association

News and Notes

March/April/May 2021

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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.

One Year Later – Looking Back and Looking Ahead

I was reviewing the March/April 2020 newsletter in preparation to begin the 2021 edition and came across the Operations Update provided with regard to MCIA office and lab operations at that time. Little did I know at that time that as much as some things wouldn't change at all, some things were going to change dramatically. In the 2020 update, at the beginning of the COVID-19 disruption, it was reported that the office and lab were open daily and functioning at a normal pace. Now we are one year removed from that update and I could copy and paste that item in this edition and it would apply just as accurately today. A lot has changed for all of us over the past 12 months and in some respects, things will never go back to "normal". With that said, I can say with pride that almost nothing has changed with regard to daily operations at MCIA over the past 12 months. Our dedicated staff continues to perform at a high level each and every day to meet the needs of our customers and seed industry clients. I am very proud of each of them and want to acknowledge their efforts, not only during the past 12 months, but for their entire careers which in some cases exceeds 40 years.

You may have noticed that I said "almost" nothing has changed, which is true as of today but will not be true in the next few months. After 77 years of combined service, Mark Quisenberry (43 years) and Trent Hall (34 years) have announced their plans to retire later this year. During my entire 37 year tenure at MCIA, I have never known what it is like to come to the office and not know that Mark and/or Trent would be there. I have been extremely fortunate to work alongside such talented individuals with a wealth of practical and institutional knowledge and their contributions through the years have been vital to the success of the organization. Trent's last day will be May 31 and when Mark leaves the office on July 30, it will mark the beginning of a new era, not only for MCIA staff, but members and clients as well.

Trent has been training Marshal Reidlinger over the past 18 months to take over as lab manager and we are making good progress towards hiring a full time lab assistant to assist with lab functions, so I am confident that Trent is leaving the lab in good hands and in top operating order. We were also fortunate to secure the services of Rick Hofen, recently retired manager at Missouri Foundation Seeds, to take over the role of field services manager upon Mark's departure. Mark and Rick are working together now while Rick gets up to speed with MCIA's software and inspection protocols and acquaints himself with MCIA's seasonal inspection staff. I don't believe you can ever replace individuals like Mark and Trent, but I do believe we are positioned to have a seamless transition with regard to lab and field services operations.

We are hopeful to be able to hold a formal send off for Mark and Trent at a later date but in the event that is not possible, I hope that each of you can take a few minutes to drop them a note, an email or make a quick phone call and send best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

Soybean Quality Update

As of April 30, MCIA's seed testing laboratory has completed germination analysis on 2,071 soybean samples with an average germination of 88.72%, a slight decrease from the 88.99% reported in February. Sample volume is up 239 samples from the 1,832 tested at the end of February 2020. As has been the case since harvest, the 2020 crop has shown that dreaded combination of mechanical damage and disease (mostly phomopsis) that makes conditioning difficult. One bright spot is that heavily diseased samples with little to no mechanical damage have seen improved germination results with the application of a standard fungicide treatment and when using a sand test versus the traditional rolled towel test. Please feel free to contact the MCIA office if you have questions or concerns with regard to the quality of your 2020 soybean seed production.

2021 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 good response to the deadline this year and are only missing applications from a few producers. Based on applications received to date, it appears that 2021 acreage is going to be up slightly from 2020 totals.

Based on conditions as of May 1, it appears the crop will maturity slightly earlier than normal in many areas. We are currently planning to begin inspections in SE Missouri around May 24 and move to SW Missouri shortly after. We are encouraging everyone to submit an inspection request for any production eligible for 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 2021 wheat production fields.

Missouri Wheat Council Update

One of the activities that COVID-19 did stop dead in its tracks was the effort to establish a state wheat commission and ultimately a wheat check-off in Missouri. All of the paperwork had been completed and we were making good progress towards collecting the signatures and filing the petition to form the organization when the pandemic brought all activity to a halt. As a result, we were unable to collect the minimum number of signatures needed to proceed with the process. Now that things seem to be opening up, we are hopeful that the field days and grower meetings we were counting on to deliver the needed signatures will resume and we can complete the process. If anyone would be willing to provide your signature to the petition and/or help collect signatures in your local community, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the MCIA office and we will make arrangements to provide you with the necessary materials.

Foundation/Parent Soybean Seed Orders

Missouri Foundation Seeds still has availability of good quality seed for several conventional and glyphosate tolerant soybean varieties. New offerings for 2021 include the lines listed in the 2021 Missouri Seed Guide (attached) that lists all of the recent releases from the University of Missouri that are available for licensing and production as either a “public” variety or company branded variety. Please contact MCIA or the Missouri Foundation Seed office at (573) 884-7333 to check on availability and pricing.

Missouri Prospective Plantings

Corn is projected at 3,400,000 acres, down 1% from 2020. Soybeans are projected at 5,800,000 acres, unchanged from 2020. Cotton is projected at 390,000 acres, up 32% from 2020. Rice is projected at 233,000 acres, up 2% from 2020. Winter wheat is projected at 650,000 acres, up 35% from 2020. Oats are projected at 40,000 acres, up 14% from 2020. Projected harvest for all hay is 3,200,000 acres, up 4% from 2020. (*Source: Missouri Ag Statistics Service*)

Links to Articles of Interest to MCIA Members

- Grow Pro Genetics Acquires AgriPro SRW Wheat Breeding Program <https://growprogenetics.com/press-release-march-2021>
- US Farmers Prepare for Massive Corn Acreage Despite Soy Rally <https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/2021/03-31-2021.php>
- Free SCN Tests Available to Missouri Farmers <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/free-scn-tests-available-to-farmers-5111>
- Bayer & Corteva in a 2 Dog Battle for US Soy Market <https://stlouisglobe.com/2021/04/09/stltoday-com-business-bayer-corteva-in-two-dog-battle-over-u-s-soy-market>
- American Soybean Association Honors Dr. Pengyin Chen <https://soygrowers.com/news-releases/asa-honors-dr-pengyin-chen-with-pinnacle-award>
- Farmers Struggle to Break into Carbon-Credit Market <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/farmers-struggle-break-into-booming-carbon-credit-market-2021-04-28>
- Single Week US Sorghum Sales Shatter Records <https://americanagnetwork.com/2021/04/u-s-sorghum-exports-shatter-single-week-record>
- UM Analysts See Signs of Optimism in Ag Markets <https://brownfieldagnews.com/news/mus-fapri-projects-strong-but-lower-2021-farm-income>
- Producer Bullish About Farmland Values <https://hoosieragtoday.com/producers-bullish-about-farmland-values-amid-strong-current-conditions>
- Century Farm Application Deadline Extended <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/2021-century-farm-application-deadline-extended-to-june-1-5107>
- Limagrain Announces Regional Strategy https://www.seedquest.com/news.php?type=news&id_article=126403&id_region=&id_category=&id_crop

Calendar

May 31	Memorial Day – MCIA Office Closed	
July 5	Independence Day (<i>Observed</i>) – MCIA Office Closed	
July 15	Missouri Soybean Association SOYPAC Golf Tournament	Richmond
July 8-9	2021 MO-AG Summer Meeting	Lake of the Ozarks
August 6	Missouri Soybean Association SOYPAC Golf Tournament	Dexter
August 12-22	2021 Missouri State Fair	Sedalia
September 6	Labor Day – MCIA Office Closed	
November 3	ASTA Farm & Lawn Seed Conference	Kansas City, MO
December 6-9	Corn, Sorghum & Soybean Seed Expo	Chicago, IL

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