



**Missouri Crop Improvement Association
News and Notes**

December - 2022

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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.

*Season's Greetings and Best
Wishes for a Joyous Holiday
Season and Prosperous New Year
from the Staff of the Missouri
Crop Improvement Association*

With the holiday season upon us and as another year draws to a close, we want to extend to each of you our heartfelt wishes for a joyous holiday season and a very happy (and prosperous) new year. We are very grateful for the opportunity to work with each and every one of our members and clients and want to thank you for trusting us with your inspection and testing needs. I often tell people that what we do (inspection, testing and verification) hasn't changed a whole lot throughout the years but how we do it, who we do it for and what we do it on have changed tremendously. Reflecting back over the past 40 years it is hard to imagine what the seed industry, and agriculture in general, will look like 40 years from now. We can only hope that those entrusted with producing the seed to produce the food, fiber and fuel of the future share the same values & principles as those of the present and past.

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Wheat Royalty Refunds

You may be eligible for a refund of royalties paid for wheat seed that you were unable to sell in 2022. In order to receive a refund, please return any unused tags/labels to the MCIA office no later than December 21st and indicate the number of tags/labels returned for each variety. **MCIA will not count your tags/labels for you and any tags/labels received after the December 21st deadline may be ineligible for a refund.**

Soybean Quality Update and Testing Issues

As of December 7, the MCIA seed lab has completed germination testing on 549 samples from the 2022 crop with an average germination of 88.59%. This compares to an average germination of 94.21% at the same time in 2021 and 90.57% in 2020. The 88.59% average germination represents results from all four methods (regular towel, treated towel, regular sand and treated sand). For comparison, the lab has tested 96 hand treated germ samples with an average of 93.11% and 101 sand germinations with an average of 93.19%. Mechanical damage, particularly in later harvested samples is the primary factor leading to reduced germinations, although we continue to see more frost damage and seed borne disease & common molds in samples when compared to 2021. Not all damage is visible to the naked eye as some damage can be internal and result in roots and hypocotyl's that do not form normally or at all.

For those producers that do have preliminary samples showing low germination results, MCIA's seed testing lab offers optional lab treated towel germination, regular sand germination and lab treated sand germination services. In some instances, sand germination testing can show improved results for samples with light seed borne disease infections and no mechanical damage. Treated towel germination testing can show the response of a sample to testing with a standard fungicide treatment. MCIA is currently using CruiserMaxx Vibrance and can access other fungicide treatment options upon request. Please feel free to contact the MCIA seed testing lab if you have questions or would like to discuss testing options for your 2022 soybean seed production.

Vigor Testing for Soybeans

As would be expected with lower germination seed lots, we are seeing a reduction in seedling vigor as measured by the accelerated aging (AA) test when compared to warm germination results, especially in later harvested production that experienced one or more cycles of weathering. Damaged seed coats can allow the seed to leach stored energy during the incubation process, leading to seedlings with reduced vigor. Further complicating matters is an abundance of common molds, particularly in later harvested production.

Accelerated aging 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.

2023 Winter Board of Directors Meeting

MCIA's board of directors will hold their winter meeting on January 30, 2023 at the MCIA office in Columbia. Please contact any member of the board of directors or the MCIA office by January 15th if you have items or issues you would like to bring before the board for their consideration.

2023 Spring Seed Directory

A copy of the 2023 Missouri Spring Seed Directory will be posted to the MCIA web site shortly after the first of the year. In the interim, please contact the MCIA office if you have questions regarding the availability of any particular type and/or variety of soybeans.

MCIA Holiday Office Hours

The MCIA office will be closed on the following days during the upcoming holidays.

December 23

December 26

January 2

Happy Holidays