



Missouri Crop Improvement Association

News and Notes

Spring 2023

Vol. 19 – No. 1

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.

HELP WANTED - MCIA Seeking an Assistant Director/Field Services Manager

MCIA is in the beginning phase of hiring an individual to fill the position of Assistant Director and Field Services Manager. This is a full time salaried position with benefits that will be located at the MCIA office in Columbia. While we hope to have this individual on board sooner rather than later, we are under no hard deadline and the position will remain open until filled.

Our goal is to identify an individual to join our staff and supervise inspection personnel and programs while at the same time learning all aspects of the operation from the ground up, which would put them in a position to transition into the Executive Director's role when it becomes available in the future. If anyone has interest themselves or knows of someone that might be a good fit for this opportunity, please feel free to contact Richard at the MCIA office to get more information or discuss in greater detail.

State of the Association

Despite a slight decline in acreage enrolled in seed programs, a decline in lab sample volume and large losses in the investment accounts, we were fortunate to end FY22 in the black. For the second year in a row, strong markets and higher utilization of total production lead to an increase in the amount of tags and certificates issued for seed wheat, rice and peanuts. Tagging volume increased 19.9% to 1,194,358 units, a volume we have not seen since 2003. Lab sample volume decreased 5.7% to 4,101 samples which meant the lab was able to cover the cost of operation. Looking forward to 2023, we are projecting stable acreage and lab volume with slightly lower tagging volume. The Board of Directors approved a break even budget for FY23, therefore, there is no plan to adjust fees at the present time. Looking ahead, MCIA's 2023 annual membership meeting will be held in Columbia the last week of July or the first week of August. Additional details will be distributed as they become available.

USDA-AMS Report – Promoting Fair Competition and Innovation in Seeds and Other Agricultural Inputs

For anyone interested in the subject of concentration in the agricultural input sector, excerpts from the executive summary of a recently issued report from USDA-AMS on this subject are printed below and a copy of the complete report is attached to the emailed version. Regardless of your position on the issue, it is an interesting and informative read.

For years, American farmers and independent seed businesses have voiced concerns to the USDA about concentration and the consolidation of market power in agriculture, including in seeds and other agricultural inputs, and the resulting decline in healthy competition. On July 9, 2021, President Biden issued a historic Executive Order titled "Promoting Competition in the American Economy," which creates a whole-of-government approach to competition and includes initiatives across federal agencies to tackle some of the most pressing issues across our economy.

The complete report can be accessed at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SeedsReport.pdf>

Heads Up - 2023 Small Grains Applications

Field inspection request applications for small grains and cereal crops were distributed in mid-March and are due at the MCIA office by April 15. Please submit your applications and supporting documentation by the deadline so we can plan for orderly and efficient inspections. MCIA will accept late applications after the deadline, however, priority for inspection will go to those producers that submitted their applications by the due date.

(over)

Soybean Seed Quality Update

Based on recent activity, it appears many conditioners are finished or are winding down conditioning operations associated with the 2022 crop. As of April 1, MCIA's seed testing laboratory has completed germination analysis on 1,275 soybean samples with an average germination of 87.71%. While there have been some samples with seed borne disease issues, mechanical damage has been the single largest factor contributing to reduced germination scores. Accelerated Aging (AA) scores have been running in parallel with germination scores, generally meaning if the germination is good then the vigor is good. We have seen an increase in the number of requests for sand germination testing and generally speaking have noted little or no improvement in results.

2023 Spring Seed Directory

The 2023 Spring Missouri Seed Directory is posted on MCIA's web site under the Forms, Documents and Publications tab and a copy is also attached to the distribution email for those of you that receive the newsletter in digital form. In an effort to reduce postage expenses, we are mailing printed copies on an as requested basis, so please feel free to contact the MCIA office if you would like to receive a printed copy or if you have questions regarding availability of anything contained in the directory or about varieties not being produced in Missouri.

New and Established Soybean Lines Available for Branding in the Momentum Brand or Private Label

Once again, MCIA is partnering with the University of Missouri to offer conventional, conventional – high oleic and glyphosate tolerant soybean lines to MCIA members and seed producers across regions compatible with mid-group III through mid-group V soybean production. Missouri Foundation Seeds still has availability for most of these varieties and detailed information on new releases, as well as lines released in recent years, can be obtained in the attached 2023 Soybean Seed Guide or upon request for those of you that receive a mailed copy. All of these varieties can be marketed under a company brand name or under the common Momentum brand. Please contact the MCIA office for additional information regarding seed orders or licensing info.

Missouri Prospective Plantings

According to USDA estimates released by the Heartland Regional Field Office, Missouri growers are expected to plant 3,450,000 acres of corn in 2023, up 3% from 2022. Soybean planted area is expected to total 6,000,000 acres, down 2% from 2022. Cotton growers intend to plant 360,000 acres, unchanged from 2022. Rice planted area is expected to total 195,000 acres, up 26% from last year. Winter wheat area seeded last fall is estimated at 860,000 acres, up 37% from 2021. Acreage planted to oats is expected to total 40,000, down 11% from 2022. Finally, hay producers intend to harvest 3,140,000 million acres of all hay types, down 1% from last year.

Links to Articles of Interest

- How Grasses Avoid Inbreeding <https://phys.org/news/2023-01-grasses-inbreeding.html>
- Study Finds Midwest Soil Eroding 10-10,000 Times Faster Than it Forms <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/12/221207141746.htm>
- Rice Breeding Breakthrough Could Feed Billions <https://www.isaaa.org/kc/cropbiotechupdate/article/default.asp?ID=19976>
- Exotic Wheat DNA Could Help Develop 'Climate-Proof Crops' <https://www.earlham.ac.uk/news/exotic-wheat-dna-could-help-breed-climate-proof-crops>
- Study Finds Link Between Evolution & Herbicide Resistance <https://www.morningagclips.com/study-finds-link-between-evolution-and-herbicide-resistance/>
- BASF Halting Hybrid Wheat Program in North America <https://www.bakingbusiness.com/articles/58548-hybrid-wheat-shocker-basf-halts-n-america-seed-development>
- Shortage of Native Seeds Slowing Restoration Projects <https://www.morningagclips.com/a-shortage-of-native-seeds-is-slowing-land-restoration-across-the-us/>
- Researchers Develop Fire-Resistant Cotton <https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2023/usda-researchers-develop-naturally-fire-resistant-cotton-lines/>
- MU Agronomist Gives Post-Drought Renovation Tips <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/mu-agronomist-gives-post-drought-pasture-renovation-tips-6002>
- Weeds Adapt to Fight Back Against Herbicides <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/weeds-adapt-to-fight-back-against-herbicides-5940>
- MU Rice Trial Shows Stark Differences in First Year <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/mu-rice-cultivar-trial-shows-stark-differences-in-first-year-6007>
- Weed Management More Complex <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/new-regulations-make-weed-management-more-complex-in-2023-5918>
- MU Strip Trial Program Sees Results <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/mu-strip-trial-program-sees-results-in-foliar-fungicide-applications-5929>

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