



Missouri Crop Improvement Association

News and Notes

Winter 2024

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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.

James Melvin (Jim) Elliott (1927-2023)

James Melvin (Jim) Elliott passed away Friday morning, November 24, 2023 at his home near Excelsior, MO, a mile from the home place where he was born in 1927. After serving in the Navy from 1946-1948, Jim returned to Missouri where he married his wife Minetta in June of 1948. The newlywed couple lived in Columbia while he attended the University of Missouri and studied agriculture. Upon completing his studies in 1950, the family moved back to the Versailles area and established a farm enterprise which included seed production. Jim joined the Missouri Seed Improvement Association in 1951 and the business he started, El-Par Farms, is still operating today under the direction of his sons Roger and Richard. With 73 years of consecutive membership in MCIA, El-Par ranks as the second longest active seed producing member of MCIA, second only to MFA, Incorporated by 3 years.

Our thoughts are with Jim's family as they remember a wonderful man and a life well lived. Jim's obituary in its entirety can be viewed at: <https://www.kidwellgarber.com/obituaries/James-Elliott-42/#!/Obituary>

Heads Up - 2024 Small Grains Applications

Field inspection request applications for small grains and cereal crops were distributed in late January 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. Additional inspection request applications are available upon request or online at www.mocrop.org.

Join Our Team as a Field Inspector

We are seeking individuals to inspect soybean and small grain seed production fields for varietal purity and weed presence. Responsibilities include conducting inspections, documenting findings and verifying quality standards set forth by MCIA. If you are interested, or know of someone that might be, please contact Ryan Barnes at the MCIA office by phoning (573) 449-0586 or emailing RyanB.MCIA@socket.net.

USDA Releases 2022 Census of Agriculture Data

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service has released the results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, spanning more than 6 million data points about America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them, down to the county level. Highlights of the Missouri data include:

- * 87,887 farms and ranches in Missouri (down 7.8% from 2017)
- * 27 million acres of Missouri farmland (down 2.7% from 2017)
- * Missouri farms and ranches had net cash income of 5.0 billion
- * 5,596 Missouri farms had sales of \$500,000 or more (11.6 billion)
- * Average age of all Missouri producers was 57.9 (up from 57.4)
- * 57,163 female producers accounted for 36% of 2022 of all Missouri producers in 2022
- * Average Missouri farm size is 308 acres (up 5.8% from 2017)
- * Missouri produced 14.7 billion in ag products (up from 10.5 billion in 2017)
- * Missouri average farm income rose to \$56,606
- * 67,400 Missouri farms had sales of less than \$50,000 (685 million)
- * 9.6% of all Missouri producers were under age 35 (15,092)

The full Census of Agriculture report can be found at nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. Ag census data can also be found in NASS's Quick Stats database.

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State of the Association

FY23 was a mixed bag in terms of acreage, tags/certificates issued and lab volume but when all was said and done, MCIA came out on the positive side of the ledger. Revenue came in at 99.4% of projections, expenses at 90.9% of the budgeted amount and we were able to increase the level of MCIA's reserve funds slightly. While all appears to be stable at the present time, staff is constantly looking for new service opportunities for existing and potential new clients. Looking forward to 2024, we are projecting stable acreage with slightly higher lab and tagging volume. The Board of Directors approved a break even budget for FY24 and there is no plan to adjust fees at the present time. MCIA's 2024 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.

Soybean Seed Quality Update

As of February 23, MCIA's seed testing laboratory has completed germination analysis on 761 soybean samples with an average germination of 90.50% which is slightly higher than the 87.71% reported at the same time in 2023. Mechanical damage has been the single largest factor contributing to reduced germination scores and samples showing signs of seed borne disease have been few and far between. Accelerated Aging (AA) scores have been running in tandem with germination scores, generally meaning if the germination is good then the vigor is good. We saw an increase early on in the number of requests for sand germination testing and generally speaking, noted little or no improvement in results.

2024 Spring Seed Directory

The 2024 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.

Links to Articles of Interest

- Financial Incentives Available for Climate Smart Grazing <https://cra.missouri.edu/mo-crcl>
- Custom Rates for Farm Services in Missouri <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g302>
- 2024 USDA Farm Income Forecast <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/AOF-2024-Litkowski.pdf>
- What El Nino Means for Farms and Global Food Prices <https://www.fooddive.com/news/el-nino-agriculture-farming-food-prices/707093/>
- Research Leads to Potential Increases in Soybean Yields <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/research-leads-to-potential-increases-in-missouri-soybean-yield>
- MO Farmers Invited to Apply for Incentive Funds <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/missouri-farmers-invited-to-apply-for-agroforestry-incentive-funds>
- SCN Diagnostics, MSMC Offer Free SCN Tests <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/scn-diagnostics-mo-soybean-merchandising-council-offer-free-scn-tests>
- 2023 Third Warmest of Record for Missouri <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/2023-was-likely-earths-warmest-year-on-record-missouris-third>
- Look for Older Look-alike Soybean Diseases <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/be-on-guard-for-older-soil-borne-and-look-alike-soybean-diseases>
- How Russian Invasion of Ukraine Has Impacted the Global Wheat Market <https://aces.illinois.edu/news/how-russian-invasion-ukraine-has-impacted-global-wheat-market>
- BLM Announces \$18 Million to Enhance Native Seed Supply and Climate Resilience <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-announces-18-million-enhance-native-seed-supply-climate-resilience-0>
- Weakened Commodity Prices Cast Shadow on Farmer Sentiment <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2024/Q1/weakened-commodity-prices-cast-a-shadow-on-farmer-sentiment.html>

Calendar

Feb 29 – Mar 2	2024 Commodity Classic	Houston, TX
March 9	CAFNR Ag Unlimited Banquet	Columbia, MO
March 21	Missouri Soybeans Cover Crop Field Day	Columbia, MO
April 3	2024 Abner Womack Missouri Agriculture Outlook Conference	Columbia, MO
June 15	ASTA Leadership Summit	Nashville, TN

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