

MISSOURI CROP IMPROVEMENT NEWS & NOTES



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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As we wrap up another growing season, there's plenty to review, to prepare for, and also be thankful for. This issue includes updates on wheat and soybean harvests, seed quality, and news from the MCIA office. You'll also find the latest crop production report and several articles of interest from around the seed industry.

Thank you for your continued support of Missouri Crop Improvement and your commitment to producing high-quality certified seed.

— Ryan Barnes, Assistant Director / Field Manager



LOOKING BACK: WHEAT HARVEST, QUALITY AND TAGGING - END OF SEASON RECAP

Missouri's 2025 wheat crop progressed on schedule, with some growers starting early to beat late-season rains. Despite variable weather and some pest pressures, soft red winter wheat delivered strong milling and baking quality, making it highly desirable for cookies, crackers, and blended flours. Yields were generally solid across the state, though local conditions varied. While input costs and market pressures may affect margins, the overall crop quality and timely harvest give Missouri growers reason to celebrate a successful season.

Small grains testing has completed, and the lab has processed 18.4% fewer samples this year - 181 less than the same time in 2024. Tagging numbers reflect the same trend, currently down 31.9% compared to last year, a decrease of roughly 67,553 tags. There will be a small reconciliation of tags around December 1st, but we do not expect to approach last years numbers. One upside, however, is that wheat quality has been strong, with an average germination of 95.12%. A notable change this season is the drop in cover crop wheat samples, which are coming in lower than in previous years.

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MISSOURI WHEAT MERCHANDISING COUNCIL

We are still collecting signatures in support of forming a Wheat Merchandising Council for Missouri. This council would focus on promoting local wheat breeding programs that develop early-maturing, high-yielding varieties ideal for cover and double cropping. The initiative aims to directly benefit Missouri wheat growers through research and outreach on best practices in fertilization, harvesting, and storage. To sign the petition, you must be a Missouri wheat farmer. If you are eligible and interested in supporting this effort, or would like more information, please contact the MCIA office.

SOYBEAN HARVEST AND QUALITY UPDATE

Missouri's 2025 soybean season started strong, helped by consistent spring rainfall that supported good early growth and pod development. As the season progressed, a late-summer drought stressed many fields, particularly during the critical seed-filling period, resulting in smaller beans and lighter test weights in affected areas. Fields that avoided the worst of the dry conditions, especially in northwest Missouri, produced solid yields and high-quality beans. Overall, while conditions varied across the state, the crop shows good potential for marketable quality, though attention to seed moisture and uniformity at harvest will be key.

Soybean samples are beginning to come in, with 307 received as of November 20. Overall quality has been strong, averaging 91.44% germination. Bean size, however, is running smaller than usual, and we have not seen any large seed so far. With the late-season drought hitting later-planted fields harder, we do expect quality to dip slightly as those samples begin to arrive.

SOYBEAN VARIETY TESTING PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Curious how soybean varieties stacked up in 2025? Full University of Missouri trial results are available here:
varietytesting.missouri.edu/soybean

SOYBEAN AND WHEAT ROYALTY REFUNDS DUE DECEMBER 12

You may qualify for a refund on royalties paid for unsold 2024–25 soybean or wheat seed. To request one, return all unused tags or labels to the MCIA office by December 12 with the quantity for each variety noted. MCIA will not count tags/labels for you, and any received after the deadline will not be eligible.

MISSOURI 2025 CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

Wheat acres dipped slightly from last year, but stronger yields boosted overall performance. Rice acres, production, and yields all declined from 2024. Peanut acreage rose modestly, with steady yields leading to a small increase in total production. Soybean acreage and harvested acres were down, though yields improved, and double-crop soybean acres also decreased from 2024.

(DATA FROM THE USDA MISSOURI CROP PRODUCTION REPORT, AS OF NOVEMBER 14)

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SAVE THE DATE – 2026 WINTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The MCIA Board of Directors Winter Meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2026, at the MCIA office in Columbia. If you have any questions, suggestions, or items you would like the board to review, please contact the MCIA office ahead of the meeting.

MCIA HOLIDAY SEASON OFFICE CLOSURES

Thanksgiving Day.....Thursday, Nov 27, 2025
Black Friday.....Friday, Nov 28, 2025
Christmas Eve.....Wednesday, Dec 24, 2025
Christmas Day.....Thursday, Dec 25, 2025
Observed Holiday.....Friday, Dec 26, 2025
New Year's Day.....Thursday, Jan 1, 2026

LINKS TO ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[What happened to Missouri's record-breaking soybean crop?](#)
Late-season drought affected Missouri's 2025 soybean yields.

[Missouri Soybean Farmers Face Rising Production Costs](#)
Rising input costs and trade issues impacting soybean production.

[Growing together \(MFA seed grower story\)](#)
Profile highlighting Missouri seed growers and best practices.

[Missouri's Researchers Are Turning Off-Season Crops Into Next-Gen Biofuels](#)
Research on cover crops and innovations for future seed markets.

[Inside Missouri's Food and Ag Investments](#)
Overview of seed and processing facility investments in Missouri.

[Missouri Foundation Seed – How They Serve Missouri Growers](#)
Overview of the Foundation program and support for Missouri growers.

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.