



The Seed Source

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

April 2010

Important Dates

May 1

Payment for Certification of Summer-Inspected Crops (Form Bs) Due. *Penalties will apply after this date.*

May 31-Memorial Day

KCIA office Closed

Other Significant Dates

April 4 - Easter

April 15 - Tax Day

May 9 - Mother's Day

THE SEED SOURCE

If you would like to receive "The Seed Source" via email, please contact us at kscrop@kansas.net

Board Funds Research That Aids Kansas Agriculture

The KCIA Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the Research Support Committee, approved funding of six research projects at their March 24 meeting in Salina. Four of the proposals were requests for continued funding while two were new projects. Projects receive funding based upon their potential to aid seed producers and/or Kansas agricultural production in general. Projects receiving funding are:

- Performance of Wheat Varieties in No-Till Systems (1st of 3 years)
- Do Foliar Wheat Diseases Mask the Advantage of Planting Large Seed vs. Small Seed (3rd of 3 years)
- Improving Winter Canola Germplasm and Varieties (2nd of 3 years)
- Transfer of New Sources of Barley Yellow Dwarf Resistances from *Haynaldia villosa* to Adapted Kansas Winter Wheats (4th of 4 years)
- Evaluation of Drought and Heat Tolerance in Wheat (1st of 3 years)
- Variety Development of Conventional Soybeans (1 year)
continued, see Research, page 2.

Coming Soon! Statement of Fields Applied For Inspection (Form B)

As of March 15, completed field applications should be in the hands of KCIA staff. The *Statement of Fields Applied For Inspection, Form B*, is generated from information on the field applications. This is the form used by KCIA to assess field and inspection fees. Applicants should review listed field information for accuracy. It is very important to take time to review the Form B.

Compare the information on the Form B with your field records. Make sure that each field properly identifies the correct seed class, correct variety and correct acres.
continued, see Form B, page 2

Noteworthy Items

- Form A/C is due for summer inspected crops.
- Form B statements will be going out this week and payment is due by May 1. Please REVIEW forms for accuracy, this is your chance to correct your errors and/or ours.
- Form B statements will show an acreage fee increase of \$0.25 per acre, as approved at the December 2008 board meeting.
- Lab reports are available by email. If you would like your results immediately upon completion in .pdf format, please make your request to efkcia@kansas.net.

Identify and Strengthen Weak Links in Seed Quality Chain

As the saying goes, “a chain is only as strong as its weakest link”. That is true for the seed business also. It is important to seek out and strengthen the weak links in a business that can harm a reputation for quality seed garnered through years of hard work and service. Continual improvement is necessary to insure continued growth and success.

A weak link does not have to be an employee. It can be anything that has a direct impact on seed quality or the customer’s perception of quality. It can be equipment or attitude. It can be contract growers, or custom applicators.

Equipment design can be a weak link if it is difficult to clean or damages the seed. The hired hand might be the weak link if not properly taught how to operate or clean equipment. The business owner might be the weak link if it is not a priority to train employees to conduct proper clean down of equipment.

Seed producers must ensure that contract growers understand that they are growing more than just another crop. They must understand how to meet field and seed standards. The certified grower must make certain that contract growers understand that “grain clean” is different than “seed clean”. Stress the importance of properly cleaned combines and other equipment as well as maintaining varietal purity and seed condition. Make sure contract growers can correctly recognize potential problems such as noxious weeds, and that harvest prior to field inspection voids certification. Require accurate records of bushels harvested from each certified field, as these will be needed when completing harvest reports.

Dry fertilizer contaminated with unwanted seeds is a weak link. In addition, custom application equipment can carry unwanted seeds from field to field. Tillage equipment can carry field bindweed from field to field or spread it within a field. Poor record keeping can lead to mis-identification of the variety sold. Improper or incomplete labeling can place the seed producer in violation of state and federal seed laws and certification standards.

Taking some time to address the “weak links” will maintain that good reputation with your customers.

Form B continued from page 1

If choosing not to certify a particular field listed, draw one line through it and adjust payment accordingly. If information such as class produced is incorrect, draw a line through the erroneous information and clearly write in the correct information. Be sure to recalculate the total fee.

If you have not yet submitted your field applications, please do so immediately or your Form B may not arrive to you in time to meet the May 1 deadline for payment and serious penalties will result.

Research continued from page 1

The Board released a total of \$37,800 in support of the above projects. Kansas certified growers fund research projects through a fifty-cent research fee on every acre of certified seed production.

Members of the Research Support Committee are Darrin Delange, Girard, Chair; Gary M. Pierzynski, KSU Representative; Herb Mattson, Colby; John Kramer, Milford; Mike Baxa, Belleville; Bill Daugherty, Culver; Martin Ray, Winfield; and Steve Schuler. Jim Shroyer substituted for Pierzynski as KSU representative.

For myself I am an optimist - it does not seem to be much use being anything else - Sir Winston Churchill

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