



The Seed Source

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

May 2009

Important Dates

May 1

Payment for Certification of Summer Inspected Crops Due

May 10

Mother's Day

May 16

Armed Forces Day

May 25

Memorial Day
KCIA Closed

June 14

Flag Day

June 21

Father's Day
First Day of Summer

July 4

Independence Day

Reminder, payments for Certification of Summer Inspected Crops submitted after May 1 are subject to a \$100 fine per field

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- **Kansas Wheat is initiating a search for a new Executive Officer. Visit their website www.kansaswheat.org for more information.** •••••
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THE SEED SOURCE

Sarah E. Velasquez, Editor
If you would like to receive "The Seed Source" via email, please contact me at sevkcia@kansas.net

Watching Costs

How many times have you heard, "It's the economy," in the last six months? That seems to be the answer for all of our ills right now.

At KCIA, it's not too unusual to have excess revenues (otherwise known as profit) one year and excess expenses (loss) the next. On average, my goal, as Executive Director, is to try to put about 10% of revenue each year into our reserve funds. These funds allow us to operate during times of negative cash flow. Long-term, the goal of the KCIA Board is to have reserves equivalent to one year of operating expenses.

The 2009 operational expenses are budgeted at \$663,500. Reserves are their lowest this time of year, and are about \$400,000 - most of which are in long-term certificates of deposit.

There are three primary programs operated at KCIA that are responsible for our expenses. The certification program is the largest program, accounting for about 60% of the expenses; second is the seed testing lab with 22% of our expenses; and the remaining 18% is used for membership services, administration and ancillary

services. In all of the categories, wages are the largest expense, amounting to over 50% of the budget.

Like the rest of the country, 2009 looks to be a challenging financial year for KCIA. Preliminary indications are that certification acres will be below the five-year average, and nearly 20% below last year's 102,000 acres. This directly reduces KCIA's income, and unfortunately does not have a corresponding reduction in expenses. While fewer fields and acres allow some labor savings in the inspection program, travel expenses stays nearly the same.

Steve Schuler, Director, Certification Services, continues his search for qualified inspectors in all regions of the state. Local inspectors help to greatly reduce our expenses for both labor and travel, with the added benefit of quicker response to producer needs. Any assistance you could provide in identifying individuals who would make good field inspectors would be greatly appreciated.

See "Costs" on reverse

Identification of Noxious Weeds

Inspection season is around the corner, and we want to make sure you are prepared. Although varietal purity and isolation are of great importance for quality seed, the presence of noxious weeds can lead to rejection of a field. To ensure your field is not rejected, it is important to educate roguers on prohibited weed detection.

There are many resources for weed identification available. To better serve our members we have provided links to various weed related resources on our website (www.kscrop.org) under 'Technical Aids.' In addition, Steve Schuler, Director, Certification Services, has provided two presentations with photographs of weed seeds plants.

If you are the type of individual that would prefer something you can carry with you, we have also posted links to two very good books you can purchase. These are Weeds of the Great Plains, a joint publication by the University of Nebraska and Nebraska Department of Agriculture, and Weeds of the North Central States by the University of Missouri Extension.

Costs continued

Earlier this year, the KCIA Board made the decision to increase certification fees by 25¢ per acre, beginning with the 2010 seed crops. In addition, we are looking for ways to be more cost efficient in all our services. Fortunately, there are some ways in which you can help:

1. Complete and submit paperwork on time. Paperwork is more efficient if forms can be processed in batches. When paperwork is incomplete we are forced to follow up with a phone call or a written letter, and late forms require reminders.

2. Have fields rogued and isolation marked at least three weeks before you anticipate harvest. This will ensure the fields are ready when the inspector arrives, making the best use of his/her time. Assisting the inspector in locating the fields will also be appreciated and save additional expenses.

3. Send samples to the seed lab for testing as soon as possible. June is a very slow month in the lab. Testing carryover seed in June would improve the utilization of the KCIA lab staff. Although additional students are hired in the lab during the late summer and fall months, in mid-August student work hours are substantially reduced when they start attending classes. Testing wheat samples in June, July, and early August is more cost effective for us, and we can provide quicker results, too.

4. Participate in grower meetings to learn seed certification requirements and proper marketing procedures. Check the Certification Standards and Procedures books or the KCIA website for answers to your questions. Call the office if you are still uncertain rather than guessing. Correcting errors takes your time as well as staff time. Getting it right the first time is a win-win for everyone.

Daryl Strouts, Executive Director

Get to know your KCIA Board and Staff: Ardyce Kuhn



Name: Ardyce Kuhn

Position: Bookkeeper

Family: 4 sisters, 3 brothers, and 23 nieces and nephews.

Organizations: Lutheran Church,

Wildlife Federation, Singles in Agriculture, and Women of the Moose.

Hobbies/Interests: Lawn, garden, auctions, antiques, and dancing.

Most important issues for KCIA: Keeping up with the changing issues facing Kansas seed producers.

The best things in life are. . . Enjoying the great outdoors, spending time with family and friends, and my connection to KCIA!

Upcoming Field Days

It's that time again to gather the family up and head to your county field day. Why should you attend field days? Field days are an opportunity to make connections, learn something new, and speak with research professionals.

KCIA will be sponsoring beverages at the following 2009 field days. If you do not see your county listed, feel free to contact your county agent about requesting KCIA sponsorship. Hope to see you there!



May 14	6 p.m.	Sumner
May 15	8 a.m.	Sumner
May 19	5 p.m.	Pratt
May 20	7:30 a.m.	Sedgwick
May 20	9:30 a.m.	Barber
May 20	12 p.m.	Stafford
May 20	5 p.m.	Kingman
May 21	7:30 a.m.	Harper
May 26	6 p.m.	Cowley
May 26	6 p.m.	Pawnee
May 27	8:30 a.m.	Ness
May 27	6 p.m.	Lane
May 28	7 a.m.	Smith
May 28	7:30 a.m.	Rice
May 28	10 a.m.	Post Rock Eilert
May 28	11 a.m.	Post Rock Bolte
May 28	2 p.m.	Post Rock
May 28	4 p.m.	Ness Brownell
May 28	4:30 p.m.	Post Rock KSU
May 28	6 p.m.	Rush
June 2	9 a.m.	Nemaha
June 2	6 p.m.	Ellis
June 2	6:30 p.m.	Riley
June 8	7 p.m.	Norton
June 9	7:30 a.m.	Thomas

Editor's Note

Spring is here, and you know what that means: Spring Cleaning! Many people use this time of year to clean out garages or pantries, revealing chemicals and liquids that can be hazardous to the environment if disposed of improperly. Don't worry, there are some options for easy disposal:

1. Permanent Disposal Sites
2. Special Collection Days
3. Local Business Collection

Check with your city or local businesses to see if any of these options are available for you. For more information visit <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservematerials/hhw.htm>

Kansas Crop Improvement Association

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