



The Seed Source

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

November 2015

Important Dates

Feb 16 -17, 2016 **Kansas Seed and Crops Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan**

November 26 - **Thanksgiving Day (KCIA office closed 26, 27)**

November 30 - **KCIA Board Meeting, KCIA office**

December 15 - **Wheat Distribution Summaries Due**

December 15 - **Bulk Retail Summaries Due**

December 25 - **Christmas Day (KCIA office closed Dec 24, 25)**

December 28-31- **KCIA office will operate limited hours**

Other Important Dates

December 21 - **First day of Winter**

January 1, 2016 - **New Years' Day (office closed)**

January 9 - **KCIA Founded**
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The Seed Source

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

2016 Kansas Seed and Crops Conference

Please plan to join us for the 2016 Kansas Seed and Crops Conference, February 16 and 17, at the Manhattan Conference Center/Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan. The conference is host to the annual meetings of Kansas Crop Improvement, Kansas Seed Industry Association, Kansas Wheat Alliance and AGSECO. In addition, private seed companies will often schedule meetings to coincide with the conference.

We have scheduled two very informative speakers for the Tuesday afternoon general session. Dr. Romulo Lollato, KSU Assistant Professor of Agronomy, is the new Wheat and Forages Extension Specialist and will offer his expertise on wheat production and other issues. Rich Drinon is an executive communication skills trainer and will present *Go Ahead, Make Your Case – Being Persuasive Without Being Pushy*. The afternoon session is planned to begin at 2:30 pm and will be followed by our social mixer from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Breakfast will be provided and annual organizational meetings will be held Wednesday morning, followed by lunch. After lunch Dr. Brian McCornack and Dr. Wendy Johnson will present a demonstration of KCIA's new electronic form submittal program due to be launched in fall 2016 at myfields.info. Individual companies may hold sessions Wednesday afternoon, subject to further notification.

Exhibitor inquiries are welcome and may be made by contacting Steve Schuler at 785-532-6118.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn. Reservations may be made on-line at http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/M/MANGIGI-KCIA-20160215/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG. This link and other meeting information will soon be posted at www.kscrop.org.

Reservations may also be made by calling 785-532-9116. If making reservations by phone, be sure to mention the conference to receive the conference rate. It is advisable to make your reservations early because in the past, demand has exceeded availability. There will be a mailing in December.

We hope to see you at the conference.

December 15 Deadline For Filing Paperwork Approaches

As the end of yet another year approaches, please remember that all paperwork required as part of seed certification must be in our office by December 15. This will include distribution reports, transfer and resale forms (these are actually due within 5 days of their actual use), copies of bulk retail certificates and bin inventory sheets, if appropriate. Bulk Retail Facilities are also held to the December 15 deadline.

The distribution reports for transfer and resale seed will be sent out next week. 2016 membership renewals and Approved Conditioner Renewal will also be mailed out in the coming days.

Please remember that no certification activity will be allowed in 2016 until 2015 paperwork has been received and is complete.

Update on Electronic Field Application Program Development

KCIA staff has been cooperating with Dr. Brian McCornack and Dr. Wendy Johnson of the KSU Department of Entomology to develop an on-line certified field application program on the myfields.info website. The website is being developed (*continued, see Update, page 2*)

Update (continued from page 1)

as a tool for producers to leverage Extension information on-line, as well as manage their fields by opening an account for maintaining field records and having ready access to management decision tools.

The field application programming process is largely complete, and KCIA has solicited the help of several growers to beta test the program November 24, at our office. If all goes well, we will begin an educational thrust to bring members up to speed on using the program with plans to implement its use during Fall 2016.

The application will allow the use of GPS coordinates as well as satellite imaging. It will also allow almost instant notification of the grower regarding field status. In addition, each grower will control access to their field records through password protection. So, while a grower may keep all field records on the site, KCIA will only have access to those fields for which application for certification is made. Once field information is entered, it will be stored and can be used by the grower in subsequent years.

Once the program is ready to go, we will begin the process of educating our members in its use. The program will not be difficult to use and will greatly enhance our efficiency and help us to contain costs, not to mention the greatly improved communication it will allow.

Our plans are to demonstrate the program at the annual conference on Wednesday afternoon after lunch.

Stewardship Important for Seed Certification

At the heart of any seed certification program, such as ours in Kansas, are the men and women, the growers, the dealers and, in fact, even the farmer/patrons that purchase the seed. People are the backbone of a certification program. It is more than just written standards and seed laws. If we become lax about following the standards and proper protocols, however, the program becomes weakened and the opportunity for errors to occur becomes more likely.

Stewardship of our certification program is required of all of us if we are to maintain value and confidence in certified seed. The standards that are in place serve the overall purpose of assuring traceability and quality of seed going to the end-user, whether that customer is the owner of the variety, another seedsman receiving seed wholesale, or the farmer that will plant the seed. Standards are not something that can be overlooked as an expedience or as a remedy for poor planning.

The standards that govern Kansas Certified seed are reviewed by an eleven-member committee of KCIA members, with their recommendations moving to the board for approval. As needed, and by proper protocol, standards can be refined, removed, or added to as necessary to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the seed industry and its customers. Any member of KCIA can request a review of a particular standard if that standard is considered to be outdated or unnecessary.

The vast majority of KCIA members are indeed conscientious of the standards. Occasionally, we will see someone moving seed against the standards. This is done either out of ignorance of the standards, apathy, or from a desire to move seed quickly.

The time to correct these problems is now, while the problem is small, rather than wait until more drastic measures must be taken. It is important to remember that many of our standards are based on federal and state seed law, thus not conforming to standards may very well put you in violation of such laws.

It is literally true, as the thankless say, that they have nothing to be thankful for. He who sits by the fire, thankless for the fire, is just as if he had no fire. Nothing is possessed save in appreciation, of which thankfulness is the indispensable ingredient. But a thankful heart hath a continual feast - W.J. Cameron

Happy Thanksgiving!

from the Staff of Kansas Crop Improvement Association

Kansas Crop Improvement
Association

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