



# The Seed Source

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

May-June 2016

## Important Dates

**May 30 - Memorial Day-  
KCIA Office Closed**

**July 4 - Independence Day  
- KCIA Office Closed**

**July 25 - Applications for  
Fall-inspected crops due**

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**July 27-28 -Hootie Open  
Golf Tournament (27th) in  
conjunction with the KSIA  
Summer Seed  
Conference(28th) Hilton  
Garden Inn, Manhattan  
Contact Roberta Donohue,  
785-867-2160**  
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## Other Important Dates

June 14 - Flag Day  
June 19 - Fathers Day  
June 20 - First Day of  
Summer

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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*

## **Preparing for Field Inspection**

With field inspection fast approaching, I thought I'd contact you with a few reminders to insure that your inspection experience goes as smoothly as possible.

As always, your best guide will be the specific crop standards. These can be found on our website [www.kscrop.org](http://www.kscrop.org). However, I will briefly touch on the key points.

Roguing fields is a necessary part of ensuring a field will pass inspection. Roguing is the process of methodically covering the whole field and removing off-type plants, excessive variants, other crops such as oat plants in wheat, removing prohibited crops, and controlling prohibited weeds. It is important that roguing crews know what to look for, and understand what is a problem and what is not. I have some slides under technical aids on our website that may be of use in training crews.

Whereas, roguing is a very thorough covering of the field, it is important to remember that the inspection process is much less thorough in that the inspector will walk a random path through the field and essentially do a spot check. Therefore, traveling the field with the inspector and staking whatever problem may be found will not prevent the field from being rejected and the field will still require a re-inspection.

**Inspector Safety:** We all have some responsibility for the safety of our field inspectors. When he/she contacts you, be sure to remember that inspectors are not allowed into a field for at least 72 hours after any chemical application has been made, longer should the label require it. Notify them of any dangers that may be lurking. I have had an inspector bitten by a grower's dog and some idiot in a house adjacent to a certified field pulled a gun on another. This is absolutely unacceptable. Give the inspector a heads up on any potential dangers.

**Varietal Purity:** It is important to walk each field prior to the arrival of the field inspector in order to identify problems that need to be corrected in order to avoid rejection by the inspector. The inspector will be making plant counts while he or she traverses the field in order to ascertain that the purity criteria for the variety are met. When a variety is developed, the breeder describes that variety as having certain attributes such as for example, white chaff. The breeder may also describe other plant types that may be present, say, a red-chaffed variant at a frequency of 3 per 5000 heads. Anything not described by the breeder is then considered an off-type. The inspector will make his/her counts and decide if the crop meets the criteria for that variety. For wheat, off-types must not be greater than 1/10,000, 1/5000 or 1/2500 for the Foundation, Registered or Certified classes respectively.

I have placed on our website, under certification resources>technical aids, the 2016 varietal descriptors for wheat varieties and a few rye and triticale and oat varieties in order to allow growers to evaluate their fields and correct any problems.

**Separation between fields:** Fields must be clearly delineated so that the inspector can easily tell where one field begins and ends. A clear strip of land 2 feet wide, or a fence line, or a waterway, or staking can be used to satisfy this requirement.

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**Isolation:** Fields for certification must be properly isolated. For wheat the isolation distance from other wheat, or wheat of the same variety but lower class, is 50 feet, 30 feet, or 20 feet for Foundation, Registered and Certified classes, respectively. In some cases, you may have the same certified variety, but two different classes, adjacent to each other. Assuming that both fields pass inspection, you may, for instance take off the isolation from the higher class, i.e. registered and harvest it with the adjacent, certified class. However, the two fields must be clearly demarcated from each other, and the isolation properly marked in the higher class wheat. Both fields must be yours.

**Prohibited Crops:** To be clear, rye and triticale are prohibited in a field of Kansas Certified Wheat, and if found at inspection, will cause rejection of that field. A rejected field must be rogued and re-inspected in order to pass.

**Prohibited Weeds:** Weeds listed as prohibited in the crop standards, such as field bindweed, must be controlled if present in the field, or the field will be rejected. The inspector will consider prohibited weeds as controlled if the weed patches are staked with stakes (such as plaster lath, fiberglass poles, etc) that are taller than the canopy so that the inspector can easily see that the weed patch is confined within the stakes, or the offending weeds have been sprayed and show signs of dying prior to the onset of seed, or the patches are mowed down. A rejected field must be corrected and re-inspected in order to pass.

**Objectionable weeds:** The presence of weeds listed as objectionable in the crop standards will not cause rejection of a field unless they are extremely heavy and impede inspection. These weeds are, however, an indication that additional care must be taken at conditioning of the seed as many are prohibited in the cleaned seed itself. Refer to the seed standards within the crop-specific standards.

If jointed goat-grass is found, the seed must be cleaned by gravity table or length grader in addition to the air/screen cleaner.

**Diseases:** The crop standards may list specific diseases of concern to certifiers. For wheat these are common bunt, loose smut, and the recently identified flag smut. If present in any amount in a field, **common bunt** will require seed treatment in order for the seed to be sold. **Flag smut**, if found in any amount, and not further regulated by the state, will also require seed treatment in order for the seed to be sold. **Loose smut**, on the other hand, may not require seed treatment unless found at a critical level, or may lead to field rejection if found in excess of the critical level as outlined in the field standards. If the clean seed inspection (CSI) indicates common bunt is present, though not found in the field, seed treatment will also be required.

Remember, if you have a field rejected for a correctable problem, you have the option to correct the problem and request a re-inspection, or accept that the field is out of certification.

**Don't assume the field has been inspected.** If a field is harvested prior to inspection, it cannot be used for certification. Seek positive confirmation from your inspector, or call us and let us make sure it has been inspected. In these instances, you the grower are the only one in the position to prevent an irreversible error.

I instruct my inspectors to contact their assigned growers as soon they get their field assignments. This doesn't always happen. In other cases, I don't have a resident inspector in an area so I must move my travelling crew around and therefore the fields don't get assigned until we move into an area, but I try to notify growers in these areas that we are working toward them. Regardless, if you are 7 to 10 days away from harvest and you have not heard from me or an inspector, please give me a call. My mobile phone number is 785-532-9751.

In closing, I would like to say that my philosophy regarding field inspection is not that we hope to find problems and reject fields, but rather, our true purpose is to verify that the fields have been professionally maintained and prepared, and my hope is that we actually reject very few fields.

**Best wishes for a very safe and productive harvest season.**

Steve F. Schuler

Kansas Crop Improvement  
Association

785/532-6118

2000 Kimball Ave.  
Manhattan, KS 66502

kscrop@kansas.net  
www.kscrop.org