



The Seed Source

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

August-September 2017

Important Dates

September 1 - Payment for Fall-inspected crops due

September 4 - Labor Day, KCIA Office closed

February 20-21, 2018 - Kansas Seed and Crops Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan

February 21, 2018 - KCIA Annual Business Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan

Bulk Site Renewals due Now

Other Important Dates

September 22 - Autumn Begins

November 5 - Daylight Savings Ends

The Seed Source

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

2017 Kansas Wheat Book in High Plains Journal and at www.kscrop.org

The 2017 Kansas Wheat Book which includes the directory of certified seed growers and approved conditioners as well as the KSU Wheat Variety Performance Trials is being distributed as an insert in the High Plains Journal. It may also be viewed on our website www.kscrop.org.

Certified Seed and Certified Seed Producers a valuable Asset for Producers

Kansas Certified Seed has been around for a long time. The first wheat variety certified in Kansas, Kanred, was certified in 1924. So, it's safe to say that for most of us, there's always been certified seed. In the 93 years since, many dedicated seedsmen have come and gone to be replaced by the next generation of men and women who carry the dedication to producing quality certified seed into the future. Some are descendents who represent the second or third generation of certified seed producers, some are creating a legacy as the first generation. I feel sometimes that seed certification is taken for granted, or at least its contribution to agriculture and the seed industry not fully appreciated.

For the farmer, certified seed producers ensure that there is a supply of quality seed to plant. Often, the certified producer is a neighbor and a farmer. He or she grows the same variety or varieties offered for sale, in a local field. Performance is important because his farm's survivability depends on it just like his customer's. Since his name is on the label, his reputation is in every bag, tote, or truckload. Business activity stays within the community.

The certified producer commits to adhering to a set of standards governing seed production, and submits to having a field inspector critique his fields. Along with his peers, he forms a network of independent seed producers and creates a reliable and economical system into which genetics providers can feed new varieties with confidence. Production of new varieties throughout the region of adaptation helps ensure availability to local farmers as quickly as practically possible.

That certified seed may be taken for granted is a good thing, perhaps, in that, much like the kitchen faucet, it's just always been there and can always be relied upon. Cut the water off, however, and all of a sudden that faucet is sorely missed. I feel it would be the same with certified seed. Seed certification has served us well for nearly 100 hundred years. The fact that it may be taken for granted is no reason to think it can so easily be replaced. It may be well for all stakeholders, the farmer, the dealer and the genetics provider to consider this.

Seed certification can, and has, adapted to a changing agriculture, and will continue to adapt, all the while maintaining emphasis on protecting the farmer, as well as the genetics provider by providing a dependable mechanism for the increase and distribution of quality seed.

Kansas certified seed producers are, and should be, proud of the program they have built and continue to nurture.

We Want Your Input on myfields Electronic Field Application Program

All things considered, our kick-off season using the myfields application went surprisingly well. We realize that some polishing is needed and we would like feedback from you the grower as to what we might do to make the application easier to use or more useful to you.

Please email me at sfskcia@kansas.net with your suggestions or request and we will consider them. I will try to give each comment a personal response. Give me a call at the office if you don't wish to send an email.

I would like your comments by September 1 so we meet with the programmer in timely fashion. I won't reject any after this date however.

Labeling Seed Is Important

All seed sold in Kansas is required by the Kansas Seed Law to be properly labeled. Furthermore, all certified seed is required to be properly labeled with an official label authorized by the state seed certifying agency. For Kansas Certified Seed this may be an official bag label, bulk retail certificate, or a bulk invoice label. Pallet placards or other documentation is not valid unless accompanied by an appropriate, official label or document.

If your customer doesn't want the label, provide it anyway because you are required by law to do so, and no label would be a loose end in your due diligence. Labeling information is available at www.kscrop.org

Bulk Retail Facilities and Bulk Distribution Centers Allow Businesses to Add Bulk Certified Seed to Product Line

Off-site bulk seed locations are a valuable part of marketing and delivering certified seed to the end-user. Procedures are in place for co-ops, agricultural supplies and seed dealers who are not certified seed producers, to add certified seed to their product lineup. Such entities must commit to maintaining the integrity of seed under their possession.

Bulk Retail Facility – A Bulk Retail Facility is authorized to seek out and purchase eligible certified seed and label that seed in its own name. Such a facility is also authorized to bag and label eligible certified seed as well as mix and sell blends of certified seed. Each site must make application to KCIA and an on-site inspection and training session is required. Site must be registered as a seed retailer with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. As the labeler, the bulk retail facility has liability for seed sold.

Bulk Distribution Center – Unlike a bulk retail facility, a Bulk Distribution Center is a site that has been contracted by a certified grower to sell that grower's seed. The certified grower inspects and registers the site with KCIA. The certified grower is responsible that the facility can handle seed appropriately, and the grower must furnish the necessary official labels or documents for the site to issue labels in compliance with state law and certification standards. Registration as a seed retailer with the Kansas Department of Agriculture is required by state seed law. The certified grower retains liability for the seed. A bulk distribution center may serve several different growers but must keep each grower's seed separate from others without comingling.

Certified seed growers should take note. If you resale seed to a site that is not a Bulk Retail Facility, you will be required to sign that site up as a bulk distribution center in your name and guarantee that your labels are provided for the legal sale of that seed and that personnel is properly trained in handling certified seed. It is most prudent to clarify before you resale seed that the site is approved to receive and legally sale that seed. Likewise, make sure that the seed is eligible for movement as clarified on the **Transfer or Resale of Kansas Certified Seed in Bulk** form used for such movement.

We are always happy to take calls if you have questions, 785-532-6118. More information including a list of approved sites can be found at www.kscrop.org.

Guidance When Submitting Samples: When submitting samples for certification, the number assigned to the fields by **myfields** when you applied for the field, i.e. KS41523 is used just like the "A" number you are used to. In fact, KCIA converts it back to A41523 for our in-house data.

Thanks to the patrons of Kansas Certified Seed

Although *The Seed Source* isn't necessarily targeted to those farmers purchasing Kansas Certified Seed, they are, ultimately, the reason certified seed exists. It is a symbiotic relationship where everyone benefits. The farmer purchases the seed for its value in producing a crop and that purchase in turn provides the funds that drive research and the development of the next great variety and supports the seed industry that provides quality seed to the farmer. The farmer drives the innovation that in turn drives agriculture. We owe the certified customer a debt of gratitude and it is important that they recognize their role in the big scheme of things is greatly appreciated. The farmer that invests in seed today insures that there will be seed tomorrow.

Give Us A Call

Kansas Crop Improvement Association is a member-supported organization. In other words, it serves its members. Feel free to give Steve or Eric a call to discuss what we as an organization can do better or, if you're wondering why we do things the way we do. The input will be helpful in helping us continue to serve our membership.

Best wishes for the upcoming sales season.

Kansas Crop Improvement
Association

785/532-6118

2000 Kimball Ave.
Manhattan, KS 66502

kscrop@kansas.net
www.kscrop.org