



The Seed Source

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

May-June 2020

Important Dates

**Spring-inspected crops
application and payment**

**May 1, 2020
PAST DUE!**

Certification will not proceed
until payment received.
Inspection may be delayed

May 25 - Memorial Day
KCIA closed

July 25- Application for for
field inspection on Fall
inspected crops due

Other Important Dates

June 14 - Flag Day
June 20 - Summer Begins
June 21 Father's Day
July 4- Independence Day

The Seed Source

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

Field Inspection 2020

Preparation is continuing for the upcoming field inspection season. We anticipate the season will proceed fairly normally, with due focus given for the health and well-being of our inspector crew under the current COVID-19 pandemic. We will deal with pandemic contingencies as they arise. Field inspectors will be instructed to protect themselves and others by minimizing close contact with people other than their immediate family. The nature of field inspection work kind of makes such distancing pretty easy. It will require however, that we ask our growers to be even more proactive than usual and help us keep our inspectors and our growers a little safer by making necessary field changes over the phone as far as is practical.

Please review your fields from your *myfields* dashboard and ensure there are no changes to be made prior to inspection, such as cancelling a field or a portion of a field, and that what you have submitted to us accurately reflects your intentions. Please contact us at the office to make changes should any be needed since you've submitted payment for inspection. If changes are needed it is much simpler to correct them prior to the hectic inspection season. Last-minute changes or cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances such as damaging hail can be made by informing the inspector before they enter the field.

Our inspectors are instructed to contact growers and leave their contact information as soon as field assignments are made. Admittedly this doesn't always happen as it should. Should you be two weeks out from harvest and haven't heard from an inspector or our office, please call us and we'll take care of it. Growers can check the status of their certified fields from their *myfields* dashboard and this includes whether or not your fields have been assigned to an inspector.

Prior to harvesting a field, please check the inspection recommendation in *myfields* to ensure a rejected or uninspected field is not harvested for seed. The grower intervention is the last opportunity to correct an error. Again, call us immediately if you have any questions.

Preparing Fields Prior To Field Inspection

We suggest that a quick review of the certification field standards for the crop grown is a good idea, as these are the criteria inspectors use to qualify fields.

Rouging crews are used by many growers in field preparation. It is important that crews understand what is a problem and what is not. We have seen situations where crews have gone through fields focused on one issue while ignoring others that could have been easily corrected at the same time.

We suggest that growers have their rouging crews quickly review the slide set we use as part of inspector training. These can be found on our web site at <https://www.kscrop.org/technical-aids.html>. Parts 1-3 of the inspector slides are at the bottom of this page.

If we look at the wheat standards as an example we note these specifics:

Varietal Purity – Probably the foremost reason for seed certification. Inspectors will look for planting errors and areas of mixed varieties from seed contamination. We have seen instances of replanted areas where the wrong seed was inadvertently used. Such areas will need to be staked off or mowed to prevent field rejection.

Prohibited Crops – Rye and Triticale are prohibited crops. Fields will be rejected if found in field during inspection.

Prohibited Weeds – these are listed in the standards and include field bindweed, musk and Canada thistle and johnsongrass among some others. Fields will be rejected if prohibited weeds are found uncontrolled. (*continued next page*)

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Control of prohibited weeds is considered to be staking off, killed by chemical or mowed out. If staking as control, the stakes must be easily viewed (taller than the wheat) by the inspector and enclose completely the area of weeds. There can be multiple staked areas in a field.

Field Boundaries – Inspectors must be able to tell where a field begins and ends. Fields are demarcated either by open space or staking or by physical barriers such as fences or tree lines.

Field isolation – For wheat, isolation from other wheat fields is 50, 30, 20 feet for Foundation, Registered and Certified production respectively.

Rejected fields – If a field is rejected and the problem is correctable, the grower has the option of accepting the rejection and losing the field for seed production, or correcting the problem and requesting a re-inspection at additional cost. First inspections will take priority over re-inspections and therefore re-inspection can be delayed depending on inspector availability.

Standards Change Regarding Seed Transfers

By Board action, seed transfers will no longer require that a sample of the seed be sent to KCIA, effectively eliminating the need to order the “kit” consisting of the sample bags and shipping box. Transfers must still utilize the *Transfer or Resale of Kansas Certified Seed in Bulk* form. However, the statement on the form that a transfer kit is required can be ignored until we issue forms omitting the statement. The buyer and seller involved in the transfer are still expected to keep samples of the transferred seed for their own protection. Seed transfers are the transfer of ownership of certifiable seed “in the dirt” to an eligible receiver who will condition and complete certification in their name.

Notice of Price Increase

Effective immediately, the price of labels, jumbo kits, bulk retail sales certificates, and mailing bags ordered from KCIA must increase. These decisions are never easy, but this price increase is required due to increasing materials costs since 2015, because we don’t want to compromise on quality nor switch from American-made products. Form D’s are still offered at no charge. Transfer kits are no longer available.

New Prices

Sticky Labels: \$0.05 each

2# Mailing Bags: \$1.30 each

Jumbo kit (w/ straps and cardstock): \$0.60

10# Mailing Bags: \$1.80 each

Bulk Retail Sales Certificates: \$0.30 each

A note from the lab staff

As you send in your carryover and new seed samples, they see fewer problems (think seed samples spilled and lost during shipping to us) with our cloth mailing bags than with DIY shipping methods such as Ziploc bags. The best practice is to use the cloth mailing bags, not overfill the bag, note sample details on the attached label, and ship in a box with the seed request form included but not enclosed in the bag with your sample.

We wish you a safe and productive harvest. Please take care of yourself and others during the pandemic and also around farm equipment.

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." - Marie Curie

"If you're going through hell, keep going," - Winston Churchill

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