



Important Dates

July 25 - Applications for Fall-inspected Certified crops were due

September 1 - Payment for Fall-inspected crops due

Soybean Distribution Reports Due

September 6 - Labor Day, KCIA closed

Other Dates

September 22 - Autumn begins

November 7 - Daylight Savings ends

The Seed Source

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

Oversight Needed When Conditioning Seed

With turn-around between harvest and planting of winter grains already short, delayed harvest makes a tight schedule that much tighter. This is not the time to cut corners, however, because missteps and re-do's cost precious time and/or money.

Rather, closer oversight and efficient operation is the key to maintaining seed quality, avoiding costly mistakes, and getting seed ready for the planting season.

Seed conditioning obviously impacts the quality of seed offered for sale, and you can often see the difference between a seed producer who cleans "just enough" and one who cleans for quality. The difference is apparent in uniformity of the seed and in inert material and other weed and crop seed, even if the seed meets minimum certification standards. The grower must maintain stewardship of the seed whether a grower conditioner or hiring an approved conditioner.

It is important to recognize potential problems by viewing the product at different stages of the cleaning process, including the discards and screenings. If there are not a few good seed in the screenings, then it's likely that the conditioning is not intense enough to produce the best final product.

There has been some common bunt in the state and it is important to realize that if a bunted kernel is found in a certified seed sample at testing, seed treatment will be required to sell that seed. This has impacted some seed producers in the past who priced their seed early only to find that now the cost of seed treatment must be added on and absorbed or passed on to the customer. Check the discards and screenings and clean seed for bunt. Or, better yet, check the seed before it gets to the cleaner. Look for bunted kernels or sniff for a fishy smell.

Even if not caught by the seed sample, do not sell seed if bunted kernels are seen without proper seed treatment. Seed treatment should be considered a best management practice for seed producers and farmers.

Approved conditioners strive to produce good seed lots, but the grower generally has the final say as to how intense the conditioning is and what the final product looks like.

Field Prep for Planting Certified Production is On-Going Operation

Beginning with the 2022 season, by action of the Board of Directors, rejected fields will be charged the full inspection price minus research fee, plus hours and mileage incurred for re-inspection. While the number of rejected fields is small relative to the total fields inspected, each rejected field represents a failure to properly prepare a field to meet minimum certification requirements that are clearly defined.

Land availability and rotational requirements may force the use of a sub-optimal field for seed production. In these cases it is important to recognize the obstacles to certification and plan ahead for clearing those obstacles by the use of pre-plant or out-of-season herbicides if available or by properly training and overseeing roguing crews to recognize problems and remedy them. (continues page 2)

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Contract growers can be problematic when assessing the suitability of their own fields, and it might be prudent to confirm suitability of contracted fields prior to planting.

If a field is rejected for other than varietal purity, the problem can be fixed and a re-inspection requested based on inspector availability, but the delay and extra cost is best avoided by proper field choice and pre-season preparation. Please review the certification field requirements for the crop before committing a field to seed production. The following link to an article from KSU may give some guidance in field bindweed control:

https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/agr_social/eu_article.throck?article_id=1984

Work Continues on Seed Lot Management Dashboard

We continue to work with our software developer on our seed lot management program. Though it has been taking longer than we had anticipated, we hope that the extra care makes for a smoother rollout. We are planning on a member wide release in 2022, giving us ample time for training and refinement. In the meantime, we will have our beta testers trying it out.

Don't Wait to Submit Testing Samples

The Seed Lab is in full swing of testing for the wheat season. Harvest was a bit later and there are some issues with Fusarium Head Scab in a few areas of the state, so there will be a lot of work to be done in the short time before planting season. Please submit your seed samples as they are ready rather than waiting to send several samples at once. The sooner samples arrive at our laboratory, the better the opportunity for our staff to get your results in a timely manner.



Sample packaging (photos) continues to be an issue, particularly with plastic bags, which are prone to breaking open in transit if not done properly. A sturdy box and adequate bubble wrap or other filler to prevent shifting of the bags will generally get them here in good shape.

“Life is what we make it, always has been, always will be”

- Grandma Moses

Kansas Crop Improvement
Association

785/532-6118

2000 Kimball Ave.
Manhattan, KS 66502

kscrop@kansas.net
www.kscrop.org