



The Seed Source

Newsletter of Kansas Crop Improvement Association

April 2023

Important Dates

May 1— Payment Due for Fields Applied for Certification of Summer-Inspected Crops (Form B statement)

May 29—Memorial Day, KCIA office closed

Other Dates

May 14—Mothers Day

June 14—Flag Day

June 18—Fathers Day

June 21—Summer Begins

The Seed Source

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

Marion Spiering Assumes Field Services and Certification Duties

As was reported in a recent email to members, KCIA has hired Marion Spiering, Powell, Wyoming as our new Manager, Field Services and Certification. She began on March 15.

Marion grew up on a certified grass seed farm and has cooperated with Wyoming Crop Improvement Association in certifying their seed fields. She supervised roguing crews in preparation for WCIA field inspections as well accompanying Wyoming Crop Improvement Association personnel on field inspections.



Marion fits easily into our KCIA staff and will be a great asset for our Association members. The members will find her knowledgeable, professional, and personable.

Notice of Miscellaneous Fee Changes

While this will not affect most of our members as they are rarely assessed, we have made some miscellaneous fee changes in 2023. The complete fee schedule is available on our website.

First the good news! Due to federal executive branch efforts against "junk fees" there is new Consumer Financial Protection Act guidance on "Insufficient Funds" charges on depositors. We expect our financial institutions to come into compliance with this guidance and we will not need to assess this charge in the future. Therefore, once this occurs, we will be lowering our Return Check Charge to the actual fee charged against KCIA plus no more than \$15.00 per instance.

Secondly, a letter went out with Form B Statements already, but we have instituted a new fee for late production class change requests. The deadline for changing the class of a production field now aligns with the deadline for Form B Statements. The fee for any class changes after May 1st will be \$50.00 per field and can be entirely avoided with proper planning and diligent application entries on the part of our seed producers. This does not affect all applications in the event of a seed shortage emergency and is only due to the increase we have had in change requests when the field is nearing harvest or already inspected.

Finally, we were able to absorb inflation increases on label and bag costs and they will not change price in 2023.

Statements for Fields Applied for Certification Have Been Mailed

Statements for fields applied for certification have been mailed. The statements are for payment of field fees and field inspection fees and must be paid by May 1 to avoid penalty for overdue payment. If you have field applications submitted and do not receive a statement, please contact us immediately.

When the statement is received, be sure to review it for accuracy. Make sure the class being produced is accurate as well as the acres and variety.

If you need to cancel a field, you do so by drawing a line through the field and recalculating the total fee due. Likewise, if you need to add a field, write the pertinent information on the form and recalculate total fees. Make sure you have entered the additional field in the myFields dashboard.

Payment must be postmarked by May 1 to avoid penalty.

Aaron Yoder Joins KCIA BOD as East-at- Large Representative

Aaron Yoder, Oswego, was elected East-at-large Director at the annual business meeting in Manhattan February 23. He replaces Steve Ahring who had reached the mandatory term limit.

Richard Falkenstien, Oswego, was appointed to the board in 2022, after the position remained open at the 2022 annual business meeting. He represents the Southeast District.

Dan Rhine, Wichita, and Tyler Ediger, Meade were re-elected to additional terms for the Central District and the West-at-large positions, respectively. Tyler also serves as Vice-President, Standards.

Other members of the board are: Dustin Miller, Hutchinson, President, Central-at-Large; Alex King, Manhattan, VP Research, Northeast District; Evan Lesser, Palco, Northwest District; Chris Boyd, Medicine Lodge, South Central District; Shane Ohlde, Palmer, North Central District; Matt Lobmeyer, Garden City, Southwest District; Dr. Rajiv Khosla, *ex officio*, Head, KSU Department of Agronomy; and Durango Schmidt, appointed by the Kansas Seed Industry Association.

The Board sets the policy for our Association. Input from members is important for the Board to function properly, so do not hesitate to contact your representative if you feel you have important issues to bring.

Cancelling or Adding Fields

The drought has been relentless for a sizable portion of Kansas. Hoped for rains, if they come, may be too late to do some wheat fields much good. Tough weather conditions such as what we are now experiencing always lead to some fields being cancelled and others added in an attempt to replace production.

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the Form B statement mailed last week is the first place to report a field cancellation. It is also the first place to add a field since statements have been sent. Later in the season, as inspection approaches, it is not too late to cancel a field. In fact, a field may be cancelled up to the time the inspector enters a field, then it is too late to avoid the fees. To cancel a field, list the field numbers in an email to kscrop@kansas.net and request cancellation.

Likewise, if a good faith effort was made to meet the March 15 deadline for applications, a field or two can be added at any time to replace lost production, provided it meets all requirements for certification. Otherwise, weather is not an excuse to have missed the deadline for field application. Late-added fields will be inspected as scheduling allows; however, priority must be given to those fields already scheduled.

The important thing is to not wait until the last minute to make decisions.

A Note from Erica on Distribution Reports

I want to thank all of you who put in the extra work doing your 2022 Distribution Reports both on paper and on the new dashboard. Your efforts allowed us to find a glitch and a couple additional features that would make the system work better for everyone. I know doing the same thing twice can be frustrating, but we truly appreciate your time spent as we update processes!

Ardyce Kuhn Celebration of Life

The family of Ardyce Kuhn will celebrate Ardyce's life on May 20th at 11:00 am with a small gravesite service at the Templin Cemetery in Alta Vista, followed by a light lunch at the Alma Community Center, where memories of Ardyce will be shared. All of the KCIA family has been invited to attend. Ardyce's obituary will be in the Manhattan, Alta Vista, and Topeka papers closer to the event.

It's so dry... (from an article by Gayle Leonard)

...all the fish have ticks.

...the dogs are marking their territory with chalk lines

...the fire hydrants are chasing the dogs around

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Association

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