



# Michigan Seed Bulletin

QUALITY THAT GROWS!

DECEMBER 2019

Published by the Michigan Crop Improvement Association—The Official Seed Certifying Agency

## JUDD TO RETIRE AS MCIA MANAGER



Since this will be my last newsletter as MCIA's manager, I would like to take the time to thank all the MCIA staff for making my job as manager so much easier. The success of an organization is greatly affected by the quality of its employees. MCIA is very fortunate to have a skilled and professional staff that is committed to serving our members and clients. Jim

Palmer will become MCIA manager on January 1, 2020. I have worked with Jim for 25 years and know he will bring to this position a great understanding of MCIA programs, the importance of our relationships with both clients and cooperators, and the desire to improve our association. The staff of Chris Tiedje (field programs manager), Janet Policella (office manager), Lee Siler (quality control supervisor), Todd McPherson (seed processor/supervisor), A.J. Updyke (seed processor), Tina Robinson (lab manager), and Joyce Hiebert (seed analyst) will be there to help Jim move MCIA through 2020 and beyond. This is an experienced and qualified staff. Also my thanks would not be complete without saying thank you to all the present and past MCIA board members. Without the support of the board over the past 25 years, all of the projects and accomplishments MCIA has achieved would not have been possible. Marsha and I have decided to move closer to our daughter, Lesley, in Cobleskill, New York as we enter the retirement phase of our journey together.

Thinking of MCIA will always bring a smile to my face with thoughts of all the great people I've met and been able to work with. Peace to all and thanks for the memories.

## JIM PALMER TO TAKE HELM AT MCIA

After a long and successful career Randel Judd has announced his retirement from MCIA. I will be assuming the role of Manager beginning January 1, 2020. I have been employed with MCIA for nearly 25 years, beginning my career as the Warehouse



Manager for Michigan Foundation Seed Assn. in 1995, and serving in my current role as Foundation Seed Operations Manager since the MCIA and MFSA merger in 1997. Randy is leaving the association in a good financial position, with an experienced staff of competent employees which he built over his time at MCIA. These two factors should make the transition of the organization smooth and orderly. Randy also leaves behind years of expertise and extensive knowledge of the seed industry and seed law. It is an understatement to say these are some big shoes to fill! I look forward to using my past experience to guide the association into the next decade with a similar steady hand which our membership and customers have been accustomed. I would like to wish Randy well in his retirement and thank Randy and the Board of Directors for providing me with this new and exciting opportunity.

## FOUNDATION WHEAT SALES

Foundation winter wheat sales were up slightly from last year with white wheat sales increasing and red wheat sales decreasing. The following is a summary of foundation seed sales.

### RED WHEAT UNITS SOLD

|                 | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Hopewell        | 85          | 24          |
| MCIA Flipper    | 1855        | 1340        |
| MCIA Harpoon    | 250         | 371         |
| MCIA Red Devil  | 620         | 660         |
| MCIA Red Dragon | 1788        | 1752        |
| MCIA Whale      | 840         | 944         |
| Starburst       | 612         | 389         |
| Sunburst        | 1566        | 1366        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>7616</b> | <b>6846</b> |

### WHITE WHEAT UNITS SOLD

|              | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| AC Mountain  | 1880        | 1525        |
| Jupiter      | 4985        | 3319        |
| E 6012       | 420         | 420         |
| MCIA Venus   | 210         | 226         |
| Whitetail    | 80          | 3427        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>7575</b> | <b>8917</b> |

## CUSTOM CLEANING SERVICES OFFERED

Do you have a seed or food product to be cleaned or packaged? Let our experienced staff assist you in adding value to your products with our custom cleaning and packaging services. No matter the size of your project, seed or food, we have the expertise to handle your job. Our facility is a certified handler of organic products as well as being BRC Certified to handle food products. We have the capabilities to mill, gravity, spiral, and color sort most any product and can package and label your product in various bags and containers. Give us a call if you'd like to discuss a project we can help you with!

## Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage and Mulch

Michigan Crop Improvement Association is offering this service through the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) as an additional service to our members. Potential markets include customers seeking certified noxious weed seed free hay or contractors using straw mulch for road construction erosion control projects. With this program the association inspects a field prior to each cutting to verify that weed seed on a specified weed list is not present in the field. For more information contact the MCIA office. We currently have two producers of certified noxious weed seed free mulch.

Ken Landsburg Sanilac County 810-404-9161  
Murphy Farms Livingston County 517-223-3853

## MCIA Is In The Process of Licensing Two New Wheat Varieties

Michigan State University has released and licensed the new soft red winter wheat MI14R1140 to MCIA for sale and distribution. MCIA has named this variety **MCIA Harbor**. MCIA Harbor has high yield potential, moderate stripe rust resistance, powdery mildew resistance, and good lodging resistance while having taller straw. Foundation seed of MCIA Harbor will be available for planting in 2020.

Michigan State University has released the new soft white winter wheat MI14W1039. MCIA is in the process of licensing MI14W1039 for sale and distribution under the variety name **MCIA Moonlight**. MCIA Moonlight responds well to high management and it has a high yield potential with very good milling and baking qualities. Foundation seed of MCIA Moonlight will be available for planting in 2020.

## 2019 MCIA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 2019 MCIA membership meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am on March 19, 2020 at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos, MI. An educational session will follow the annual meeting and will conclude with Lunch. Members will receive registration forms in early February.

## Coho- A new Light Red Kidney (LRK) Bean

MCIA is in negotiations with MSU to license the newly released Coho LRK originated from Dr. James Kelly's dry bean breeding program. Coho is a result of a 2012 cross between Red Cedar (DRK) and the numbered line K11916 (WK). Coho is an upright determinate bush with good lodging resistance, uniform dry down and excellent yield potential with high pod placement. Coho has the I-Gene resistance to BCMV and shows moderate levels of resistance to common bacterial blight as well as bacterial brown spot. Coho matures in an average of 100 days which is one to two days later than common LRK varieties such as Clouseau and Big Red. Coho has excellent dry seed color and retains a desirable pink rosy color in storage unlike other varieties which turn brown due to after darkening. Small amounts of Coho Foundation Seed will be available for 2020 planting. A royalty will be assessed on Foundation Seed purchased or Certified Seed Sold. Please inquire about Foundation Seed availability if interested!

## MCIA Achieves Global Food Safety Initiative Certification

*By Lee Siler*

Through the BRC (Brand Reputation Compliance) Global Standards scheme, Michigan Crop Improvement Association has achieved GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) Certification. The BRC Global Standard is a recognized benchmark by GFSI for food safety. The benefits of the certification ensure our customers confidence of enhanced food safety practices are implemented at MCIA. The certification process required MCIA to thoroughly examine past practice and to develop and initiate policy and procedure to support the GFSI standards. Through rigorous education and employee commitment, MCIA was able to effectively enhance building standards, develop essential record-keeping systems and implement new and improved

## NEEDS

*By Chris Tiedje*

Each of us have needs. For some it may be food, for some it may be shelter, for some it may be a friend, for some it may be transportation. We are fortunate to live in a great country which has afforded us the opportunity to overcome these basic needs. But there is an interesting thing about needs – they change. When one need is met, another evolves. Needs are driven by what we do not have. This last year, many of you were saying: I need to get my crops planted, I need to get my weeds sprayed, or I need to get my crops harvested – maybe still. But eventually the needs were met.

We are always seeking ways to fill needs. MCIA is here to fill the needs for SEED. New varieties are accessed in the Foundation seed program. Seed is monitored in the field for trueness to variety and purity where large portions of a potential seed lot are visible. But not all things can be seen or tested in the field. It takes a seed lab to test how seed will perform – under ideal and adverse conditions. Good seed production takes a system – a system designed for quality, a system to monitor the product at multiple stages. After last year we need all the help we can get. Surprisingly, seed quality is good on the early harvested material. Seeds were harvested at good moistures minimizing mechanical damage.

We have come to rely on certain things. We rely on gas being at the gas station. We rely on our car or truck starting when we turn the key. We also rely on seed – that it produces a crop, a crop for food, fuel, and the future.

---

procedures to offer our customers a facility fully in compliance with the GFSI requirements.

This certification demonstrates MCIA's commitment to quality and food safety. It improves our ability to process safe food products, increases employee food safety knowledge, and prepares us for upcoming regulatory changes. Certification also keeps MCIA and growers competitive in the food processing market as some end processors/manufactures require food products only through GFSI recognized certified sites. Please feel free to contact us with any of your food processing requirements knowing that we have expanded our capabilities and are committed to quality and food safety.



**Michigan Crop Improvement Association**  
P.O. Box 21008  
Lansing, MI 48909

PRSRRT STD.  
Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Ithaca, MI  
Permit #35

## News from the Seed Lab

*By Tina Robinson*

Getting a reliable source for your seed can be a challenge. When you purchase seed from any source, check the seed tag to make sure the seed was tested within the year you are planning to plant. I went to a show at my local fairgrounds that had “Deer Plot Seed” all bagged in beautiful fancy bags. However, the tags on the bags indicated otherwise. The date on the tags were over 4 years old. Not to mention, I can only imagine how the seed was stored. So, buyer beware. And, a special note to those selling the seed, get it tested. Any seed you may have in storage for the winter months should always be tested prior to planting.

**HEMPSEED** - Many farmers have come in with Hemp seed and planning on giving it a try in the field. We have not had great luck with the germination numbers on the hemp seed. I’m not sure if a low germination is common or if some Michigan Growers are getting some low-quality seed. Again, always have your seed tested.

## TECHNOLOGY

New technology is here with new traits in crops that help us manage weeds, insects, and diseases. There are learning curves to any new thing. One observation of new technology relates to buffer strips. Some of the new products have minimum distances of spray application to other crops. While this helps to minimize the risk of unintended crop injury to neighboring fields, it may have unintended risk to uncontrolled problems within the seed field. There may be weeds or even volunteer plants that are uncontrolled by the herbicide, leading to potential contamination of the seed. Please keep this in mind when managing your seed fields.

### MCIA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 24 -** MCIA Office Closed Holiday Season
- Jan. 2**
- Feb. 15** Early Foundation Seed Order Form Due
- March 19** MCIA Annual Meeting, Okemos, MI