



Michigan Crop Improvement Association  
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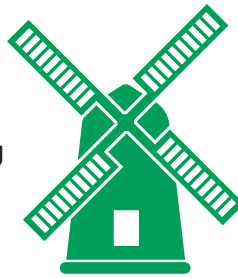
# Michigan Seed Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE MICHIGAN CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
The Official Seed Certifying Agency

LATE SUMMER ISSUE | SEPTEMBER 2020

## Fun Fact

Michigan has the only authentic Dutch windmill operating in the United States. In April of 2018 The De Zwaan Windmill in Holland, Michigan was listed in the National Register of historic places. Not only is it a historic attraction, it's also a functioning mill that still produces healthy whole wheat flour for the local community and beyond.



## Contact Us

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## Let's get social!

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**Michigan Crop Improvement Association**

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## MCIA retains BRC Food Safety Certification

BY LEE SILER

On June 18th and 19th AIB, formerly the American Institute for Baking, conducted a third party GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) audit at MCIA under the Brand Reputation Compliance Global Standards (BRCGS) scheme. This two-day audit ensured a multiple of food safety standards are practiced and adhered to at MCIA.

The audit entailed items such as our commitment to a food safety culture, security and food defense and an effective food safety plan, including HACCP, hazard analysis and critical control points. Additional items examined included documented systematic management practices to produce safe food products, including cleanliness and control of the site at MCIA. The audit also ensured the process controls and our HACCP plan is put into operation on a daily basis. AIB reviews personnel training and hygiene practices and that proper identification of high-risk production zones are identified and controlled.

After the conclusion of the audit, MCIA received an AA grade. The grade is the highest a facility can receive with an announced audit. It reflects the commitment MCIA staff have towards product quality, food safety and ensures our customers that a food safety plan is implemented, practiced and adhered to at MCIA. Please feel free to contact us with any of your food processing requirements knowing that MCIA is committed to quality and food safety.

## Lauren Mezo joins MCIA field and lab staff

BY JIM PALMER

In July, Lauren Mezo joined the Field and Lab Staff at MCIA in the newly created position of Field and Lab Technician. Lauren comes from a cash crop farm in Galesburg, Michigan and currently resides in St. John's Michigan. She earned her Bachelors Degree from Michigan State University in Agribusiness Management in 2016. Lauren's past work experience includes time with B&M Crop Consulting as an agronomy support manager. She also interned with Monsanto doing corn inspections as an undergraduate. Lauren will fill a dual role at MCIA where she will assist Chris with field inspections during the summer months and work with Joyce in the lab the remainder of the year. We are excited to have Lauren join the team at MCIA.



## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
August 17, 2020	Soybean and Dry Bean Applications Due	MCIA Office
August 17, 2020	Final Orders for Wheat Seed Stock Due	MCIA Office
September 7, 2020	Labor Day Holiday	MCIA Offices Closed
November 30, 2020	Wheat Royalties Due	MCIA Office

## What's New



### MCIA Board of Directors Approves Lab Fee Changes

The MCIA Board of Directors approved changes in lab fees at the June Board meeting. Lab fees were increased slightly for the first time in several years. The new lab fee schedule is included as a flyer inside of this issue of the newsletter.

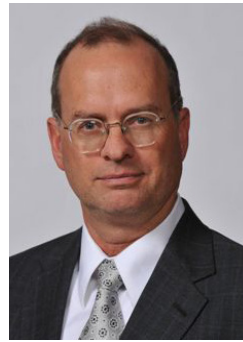


### MCIA Re-Designing Website

MCIA is in the process of giving the website a face lift. Adding more features, streamlining site navigation and providing interactive forms are just a few of the improvements we will be implementing. We expect the initial launch in late August or September. We will be updating the website content regularly so please let us know if you have any suggestions of items you would like to see.

## The President's Post

BY CHRIS SCHMIDT, MCIA PRESIDENT



As I'm finally sitting down to write this edition of the Presidents Post following another successful winter barley and wheat harvest I can't help but think of the MCIA membership and all that our farmer brethren have been through these past few years with crummy weather conditions and more recently the pandemic that seems to have no end. I sincerely hope that each of you are keeping your chin up as we wade through this to a successful conclusion.

Driving the combine this summer provided plenty of time to reflect on previous seed release events that were truly remarkable. One of them was the release of Red Devil. Red Devil has always been near and dear to me as I played a hand in the naming of that one (Jim doesn't ask me very often for a recommendation). And now this year we have a white wheat variety that is sure to eclipse the clamor of Devil.... that being the launch of certified Whitetail. First off – the name alone practically assures success. Second – it's already withstood the test of time as once again in 2020, it's the highest performing public white wheat in the MSU trials. And thirdly – the die hard white wheat growers of Michigan are hungry for something new and special. Folks – this is the one. I tip my hat to Dr. Eric Olson for bringing this one forward and also to MCIA for multiplying it so efficiently.

And the new release party continues as Dr. Jim Kelly's new black bean variety – Adams – will be available to dry bean growers in 2021. Dr. Kelly's Zorro significantly set the bar very high for new black bean varieties years ago and then he trumped it with Zenith. Every indicator points to Adams becoming the new black bean industry standard.

While Whitetail and Adams are making their début, there's a lot of other very positive changes going on within the seed industry of Michigan. Case in-point – just a few years ago malting barley wasn't on anyone's radar. Today – it's crept into the seed supply chain via various avenues and Michigan produced malting quality barley is highly sought after. That demand is assured to expand in the years ahead with some significant dollars being spent on malting infrastructure in Michigan and Ohio. MSU continues to support the malting barley endeavor with well placed trial plots, virtual tours this year and by bringing Ryan Hamilton into the research team with profound malting knowledge and industry recognition. MCIA supports the barley initiative with lab testing and seed processing to fill the needs of Michigan growers.

These are exciting times for us Michigan seed growers and I'm truly confident that we'll continue to be impressed with the germplasm coming out of MSU and other seed providers across the country. MSU's commitment to the certified seed industry is vital and sincerely appreciated. MCIA, as the seed certifying agency for Michigan, assures that the very highest standards of seed stocks are available to us growers. Can't wait to see what happens next.

## Manager's Minute

BY C. JAMES PALMER, MCIA MANAGER



In May of 2020, I celebrated my 25th year of employment with the Michigan Crop Improvement Association. I am proud to have been part of this organization over the years and when I began my career, I was the new kid on the block having limited experience and knowledge of the seed industry and usually had the most "non-gray" hair in the room. As I look back over

the years, I am amazed at how much has changed. After many years of learning from fellow employees, seed growers and industry contacts, I see many new faces and can now say I have earned my share of gray hair.

I began as warehouse manager in 1995 at Michigan Foundation Seed Association (MFSA) and was unsure where my career would lead. When then Manager Dave Glenn moved on in 1997, MFSA shrewdly merged with MCIA to utilize some efficiencies and eliminate some redundancies between the two organizations. At that time, I was offered the position of Foundation Seed Operations Manager, which I held for 22+ years. Over that period, I have witnessed many changes in the seed industry. Private companies all but eliminated

the need for public soybean varieties and changed the unit of sale of soybean seed from bushels to 140,000 seeds per unit. While most seed used to be sold in 60# bags, now most is sold in min-bulk bags or pro-boxes. Farmers are bigger, more efficient and many reject the idea of small bags. Weeds once easily killed by glyphosate, now resistant, dictated changes in production practices and forced additional traits to be added to seed germplasm. Wheat varieties have improved dramatically. I am still amazed when I see a towering plot of "Frankenmuth" wheat and think that it was at one time the standard for wheat in Michigan.

There are many more changes which have taken place over the past two decades, too many to list here. One thing I know for certain is that change is constant and staying relevant is one of the biggest challenges that keeps me excited for work each day. Today, MCIA strives to attract and retain the people who can quickly react and successfully adapt to these changes. You see, no matter the industry, anticipating the future, positioning yourself to capitalize on new opportunities, and perfecting every aspect of our craft are essential to our success. I hope our vision allows us to help YOU navigate these ever-changing times. Thank you for your support over the years and I look forward to working with you all in the years to come!

### Field and Lab Updates

BY CHRIS TIEDJE

Every year seems to bring new findings. The most notable finding of the inspection season was an increased level of grasses in some of the small grain fields. In some cases, it is a result of the no plant/prevent plant of the previous year. The fall wheat planting in 2019 was not ideal due to late planted soybeans, so acres not planted were prime candidates for early wheat planting. These may have been fields which had a more suitable environment for unwanted grasses such as those in the bromegrass family – cheat, japanese brome, and downy brome, as well as windgrass. These are annual grasses emerging from seeds remaining in the ground. Hairy vetch and wild onion are also worth mentioning. Their field incidence is lower, but the acceptance level is lower as well.

There are two implications for the presence of these: field management and seed cleaning. It will be important to control these weeds in future crop plantings so that weed seed banks are depleted prior to the next wheat planting. The second is seed cleaning. There is enough difference in size and

weight that they can be removed in seed cleaning, however, it might take a bit of extra effort. Seed cleaning equipment may need to be operated at slower speeds with higher reject rates and use of a specific gravity separator may be required. For these reasons, it is sometimes helpful to omit harvesting severe problem areas in the field. This is what makes producing seed an art — knowing the balance of equipment capabilities and field irregularities.

The lab has been busy. Germinations have been good with little disease or deterioration due to pre-harvest sprouting. The lab has had more purity findings than in typical years. Some have been grasses and weeds. These can be troublesome and may take extra equipment to remove. Some weeds may even need an electric eye to eliminate. The second lab finding is the increased level of red and white seed mixtures. Some varieties of wheat have a small level of differing bran color. This year the seed quality is such that these are much more visible. There are acceptable levels for Certification, Quality Assurance, and grain grading. Lab testing is performed to determine if these levels are a function of the variety or unintentional mixture.