



MICHIGAN
CROP IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION™

Michigan Seed Bulletin

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The Official Seed Certifying Agency

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Traceability

BY LEE SILER

Traceability is utilized by consumers of goods and services every day, from purchasing merchandise with a UPC code to paying for gas with a credit card. All products usually have a form of traceability; this is the ability to trace the origin of a product from its origins to the end user.

At MCIA our traceability program has two concepts, one is for food safety purposes and is required by the FDA. The second is for seed traceability, tracking the source of the seed processed at MCIA, which growers will plant. In both instances we assign a lot number, which is a series of numbers/letters, to each load of seed/grain that is delivered to MCIA. Each lot number is static and follows the product through our plant all the way to the point the product leaves the facility. Lot numbers represent a trackable history, identifying the seed product during processing, manufacturing, and shipping, ensuring the traceability of a product from the farm it was produced on all the way to the grower who ultimately plants it. With our food products, the traceability works in a very similar man-

ner. Whether the product is used as an ingredient such as wheat made into crackers, or in whole foods such as canned beans, the product can be traced all the way back to the grower and the field in which the product was grown.

We generally do not even think about tracing a product back to its source unless there is an issue with the product somewhere before or after it is consumed. However, in some specialty markets traceability is used as a promotional tool for the product. Several markets have developed QR codes which reveal to the customer the very grower who produced the product. The QR code can further inform the consumer where the product was raised and the processes it incurred prior to its packaging. This form of marketing is made possible through traceability.

So, the next time you see a lot number on a bag of seed or bag of snacks you will know that it represents more than just a series of numbers and letters. It holds the key to identifying the history of the product and it allows traceability. Traceability is crucial to food safety and to the seed certifying standards that support the grower and the consumer.

Need your seed tested?

Because seed is alive it has the potential to be injured, sometimes resulting in death. At the MCIA Seed lab, seeds are tested to determine viability and vigor. MCIA offers a full service seed testing laboratory for both seed certification and the commercial seed industry.



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit [MICHROP.COM/LAB-TESTING](https://www.michcrop.com/lab-testing)

The President's Post

BY CHRIS SCHMIDT, MCIA PRESIDENT



Sitting in the combine seat for hours on end during summer harvest allows the mind to wander...

all over the place. The wandering is only compounded by auto-steer – I mean how many lunches can you eat (using both hands, and I thank my wife Debbie profusely for those terrific lunches), how many pod casts can you listen to, how much surfing on your cell phone can you really do and still not be bored with the tedium? If Rush Limbaugh were still alive at least the Noon to 3:00 portion of the day would fly by. So my mental wandering eventually reduced the 2022 wheat harvest to this: It wasn't supposed to turn out this way.

The field I'm currently cutting here on July 26 was planted on November 13, 2021, just a couple days before the most sacred Michigan holiday. Only a small fraction of our seed wheat had been planted up to that date thanks to the endless 2021 fall rains.

So, reflecting on what my late father would have said, "either it'll work or it won't", Matt and I planted the last of the 2022 wheat crop 2 months after our dry bean neighbors began

planting their crop. A month later, my optimistic eye thought there might be a wee bit of fuzz out there. Then 3 months later, when the snow melted, there really was fuzz out there and we were off to the races employing the high management recipes provided by the knowledgeable stable of MSU researchers and some of the funded research provided by the Michigan Wheat Program.

The cost ended up being staggering thanks to whatever they're doing (or not) in Washington D.C., and I'm afraid to run the numbers to see what my actual cost per bushel turned out to be. But... 100+ bushel late planted wheat went into the bin this summer with great quality and test weight. Conventional wheat wisdom still applies that earlier planting is better, but sometimes taking a different, less traveled path reaps good results too. Everyone knows that farming is just another form of gambling.

With that, I'd like to introduce two new MCIA Board of Directors who were voted onto our Board in March. But first I would like to thank Mark Vollmar and Paul Varner for their dedicated service to the Michigan Crop Improvement Board of Directors. Mark and Paul were selfless in their contributions during their tenure and we're a better organization because of their sincere contributions. Thank you Mark and Paul.

Replacing Mark is Matt Lutz of Sebewaing. Matt is a third-generation seed grower and has many years of experience in seed production. Matt cites that "seed production has been an important part of our farm operation my whole life and I understand the challenges and opportunities in the industry. If elected, I will make decisions that will make a positive impact on the industry and ensure its success for generations to come." Matt has been married to his wife Terri for 28 years and has two sons who are currently full-time farmers.

Replacing Paul Varner as the MCIA Industry Representative is Jeff Martus. Jeff is currently the operations manager for Star's Richville facility and has been with Star since 2002. He grew up on a dairy farm in the Brown City area then completed his degree at MSU in Crop and Soil Science. In addition to his duties at the Richville facility, Jeff is also the current chair of the Certified Crop Advisor board for Michigan. Jeff is the proud husband to Becky and father to their 4 children: Madelyn 5, Hannah and Makena 3 (twins), and Blaine 8 months.

The MCIA Board of Directors welcome Matt and Jeff to the Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Schmidt". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.



MCIA Whale and MCIA Red Dragon Wheat Lines Discontinued

After many years of successful production and sales of these two red wheat lines, MCIA has discontinued them from our stable.

If you currently have seed produced of either of these, you have until fall of 2023 to sell your production as seed prior to the expiration of the license. You may not raise any additional seed of these two varieties for future seed sales.

Manager's Minute

BY C. JAMES PALMER, MCIA MANAGER



I was cleaning out my refrigerator last week when I saw a box of ARM & HAMMER™ Baking Soda hidden in the back. This product has stood the test of time, a product which has multiple uses and has been around for over 170 years. “The Standard of Purity” is their slogan. Among other things they state as their promise: “While ARM & HAMMER has grown into a global Brand, we remain true to our simple beginnings and fundamental principles. We create products that people know and trust.” As I thought about the statements on the box, it occurred to me that Seed Certification and Certified Seed have much in common with the ARM & HAMMER Brand.

Seed Certification has also occurred for well over 100 years. Like the “ARM & HAMMER” logo, the “Blue Certified” seed tag is easily recognized and represents the excellent product each customer can expect when they buy a package of seed with the Certified label affixed. Even though the system of seed certification dates back more than a century, still today, it provides the growers a proven product, with verified quality at an excellent price point.

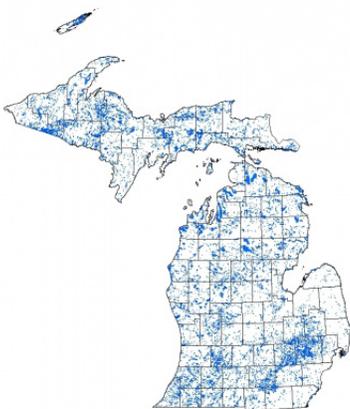
As I survey larger companies who are selling wheat seed this fall, it has become clear they will be priced much higher than the Certified or MCIA Quality Assured seed sold by the MCIA Membership. They might have a flashy ad slogan or a fancy

bag, they may even promise the farmers “free” merchandise for purchasing their products. But, at the end of the day, just like ARM & HAMMER Brand products, the MCIA line up of wheat seed will match up favorably with any other brands. We also “remain true to our simple beginnings and fundamental principles,” principles which have kept us in business for over 100 years.

When selling wheat seed this fall, don't forget to mention the genetic selection, the thorough inspections, and the critical lab tests which made your product eligible for certification. Don't forget to remind them of the value your seed provides. Most of all, don't forget to use the power of the certified seed tag which demonstrates the “standard of purity” which is proudly provided in each seed bag. Have a great Summer!

Fun Fact

Over 41% of the total area of Michigan is water, the highest of any state. Additionally, no point in Michigan is more than 6 miles from one of the 64,980 inland lakes. Now, that's a lot of Lakes!



Map courtesy MSU CANR

Lab Notes

BY LAUREN MEZO

Wheat season in the lab has officially started! Samples have been trickling in day by day, keeping us busy. So far, germinations have been in the upper 90% for both red and white wheat seed. New crop red wheat treated germinations are averaging 98% while untreated germinations are 96%. New crop white wheat, both treated and untreated germination are averaging 99%.

To help the seed lab be more efficient four new germination carts were purchased to aid in performing warm germinations. These carts are larger than our current carts, with plastic trays and plexiglass on all sides. The carts provide additional light and a uniform moist environment through



the end of the testing period. We love everything about these carts! Let's just say, these are the carts to get filled up with samples first!

Here are some friendly reminders when sending in samples to the lab. Please ensure the sample bag

identifies all the tests you would like completed. Also, please double check to make sure all of your contact information is legible and all info regarding the sample and lot numbers are correctly noted. Also, if a purity is requested, please send two pounds of seed.

Thank you for trusting our lab to do your seed testing. We are committed to evaluating your sample quickly and providing the most accurate results possible. If you ever have any questions on a sample or your results, please give us a call!



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Let's get social!

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**Michigan Crop Improvement
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Calendar of Events

August 15

Soybean and Dry Bean Applications Due
Final Orders for Wheat Seed Stock Due

MCIA Office

September 5

Labor Day Holiday

MCIA Offices Closed

November 30

Wheat Royalties Due

MCIA Office