



# Michigan Seed Bulletin

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The Official Seed Certifying Agency

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## Lauren Bogi earns the designation of official Registered Seed Technologist

Lauren Bogi recently passed an 8 hour long all-inclusive Registered Seed Technologist (RST) seed purity exam to go along with the germination portion of the test she satisfactorily completed this Spring. Topics tested in the final test included: seed lot sample representation, seed identification of nearly 300 species, seed classification as crop, weed, or noxious weed, family characterization used for seed identification, rules and procedures for purity analysis, purity analysis proficiency, analysis reporting, knowledge of US, Canadian, and International seed testing rules, and much more.

In addition to the written tests, Lauren satisfied other stringent qualifications such as: a minimum of two years lab experience, two years active Associate Membership in the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists, attended numerous workshops, a foundation of college courses, lab tutoring and mentoring, and numerous hours of independent study.

Lauren was assisted in her prepara-



Lauren Bogi proudly displays her RST Certificate.

tion by Randy Judd and Chris Tiedje, both RST's for MCIA for several decades. She studied for over two years and committed herself to passing the tests on her first attempt. The average success rate of first-time test takers is only about 50%. Completion of both seed germination and purity testing bring Lauren into an elite group of seed professionals! Congratulations Lauren!

## Fun Fact

The first recorded automobile accident in the U.S. occurred in Ohio in 1891, but the first major car crash took place in Detroit, Michigan in 1896, when Henry Ford's quadricycle collided with a bicycle. It took until 1902 before the first automobile fatality occurred in Michigan.



# The President's Post

BY CHRIS SCHMIDT, MCIA PRESIDENT



I have a hundred topics I need to be writing about in this edition of the President's Post but I

just can't ignore the one that everyone across the State of Michigan is both enjoying as well as being concerned about. On the one hand we've enjoyed superb harvesting and planting conditions this fall. On the other hand we're all trying hard not to mention the "D" word, that being Drought.

In 50+ years of farming I've never experienced a fall when we completed the entire dry bean and soybean harvest without a rain event that gave us a few days off to take a breather and re-group. This same weather event has provided optimal opportunities for Michigan wheat growers to plant, what I'm projecting from my slice of paradise in Auburn, to be one of the largest wheat acreages in recent Michigan history.

It's been a prefect match-up. Dry beans came off – wheat got planted. Soybeans came off – wheat got planted. More soybeans came off and even more wheat got planted. And the clincher to this whole perfect trifecta is that: 1) extraordinary high quality wheat seed was harvested in abundance this year and 2) made ready for planting throughout the summer into early fall. And, 3) there was never an instance where we had to put the "Sold Out" sign on our website as supply seemed to match demand in uncanny equal proportions.

Your point, you may ask? Well, my point is that the Michigan wheat seed dynamo, orchestrated by Michigan

Crop Improvement, has lived up to and exceeded everyone's expectations by investing heavily over the past decade for exactly this event: to build a portfolio of superb wheat genetics, tested and proven over several years and over multiple locations, with a production, processing and distribution network second to none within the State of Michigan. This amazing collection of varieties didn't just happen by chance. It happened because folks dedicated to the agri-industry at Michigan Crop Improvement have made a conscious decision that the availability of public varieties will not fall by the wayside and that all growers will enjoy and benefit from the abundant supplies of public varieties of both red and white wheat. To me, this all demonstrates the other "D" word – that being Determination.

So my fellow members.... I have to tell you that we are indeed a unique Association, the envy of the surrounding Great Lakes region states. Each of you have invested untold hours planning, planting, nurturing, harvesting, processing and marketing each year's crop. And alongside each of us along this journey has been Michigan Crop Improvement Association providing the very best seed genetics along with the very best lab and field services in the region. When we all hold the mirror up close and take a long look, we all see what makes Michigan Certified Seed the remarkable creation it really is. It's all of us working together for the betterment of Michigan Ag.

Be safe out there during the remainder of this fall's harvest season. I'm counting on each and every one of you to be here, healthy and rested, for the next issue of the Presidents Post.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Schmidt".

## Lab Update

LAUREN BOGI

The seed lab has been picking up over the last few weeks. Producers have been able to get the majority of their crops harvested, and processing has started. Grains are still trickling in, mostly rye and some wheat. Soybeans have slowly started to be submitted for testing, seed corn has been showing up daily, as well as dry beans.

All of the Certified and Foundation dry bean samples have been collected for blight and anthracnose testing, which is a requirement by the State of Michigan Certification Standards. The deadline for any producer who wishes to get their seed tested for their own use, still has plenty of time to send their seed into our lab. The cutoff for dry bean disease testing is March 30, 2025.

We have seen an unusual increase in samples being sent in for CRP use, both for Michigan and Ohio growers. Mainly the crop that is being sent in for testing is rye, with its intended use being planted as a cover crop. If this is something you are interested in, we would need a pound of seed in order to complete the adequate testing; which is a germination and purity analysis. Call the office for further information.

Seed corn germination has been around 98% thus far. Dry bean germination to date is averaging around 95%, we are seeing little mechanical damage or "bald heads". Soybean seed is averaging 96% germ. We haven't seen much disease in the lab as far as soybeans, more mechanical damage with the seed moisture being so low when the crop was harvested. White wheat overall average was 95% and red wheat overall average was a 97%, including treated and untreated samples. Oats had an overall average of 94%, Triticale was 93% and Rye was 90%, the big issue we saw was Fusarium mold on the seeds.

We are looking forward to the busy upcoming months, let us know how we can better serve you! If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office.

# Manager's Minute

BY C. JAMES PALMER, MCIA MANAGER



Many of you who have read my quarterly “Manager’s Minute” article in the past know the importance I place on having available, reliable and talented team members staffing MCIA. I believe individuals who bring these qualities to work every day make the biggest impact on the success of any organization, ours included. Attracting and retaining this type of individual is an ever-present challenge in today’s workplace. At MCIA we are fortunate to have built a well-seasoned team with five of our seven full-time employees

having at least five years of experience. In fact, our seven full-time employees have over 100 years of combined experience at MCIA! These numbers are a testament to the positive work culture we strive to promote around the office.

It is with bittersweet emotions that I announce an important transition of one of our most valuable team members who possessed all of the qualities mentioned above. After over a decade of devoted service, our Office Manager, Janet Policella, has decided to move into a part-time role with MCIA. Janet has been our version of a “Swiss Army Knife” over the past eleven years, wearing many hats and handling many tasks. She answers phones, orders supplies, handles payroll, receivables, payables, month end, year-end, plans meetings, collects royalties, and even

helps out in the lab when needed. She executes her job with pride, pays close attention to detail and has developed an expansive knowledge of the inner workings of our organization. When Janet expressed her desire to spend more time with her family and at her cottage, I was delighted she was still interested in contributing her talents to MCIA focusing on accounting and payroll. I look forward to continuing to work with Janet in her new capacity and am excited for her as she embarks on this new chapter of her life. So, beginning on January 1, 2025 don’t be surprised if a new voice greets your call when you phone the office, rest assured, I will do my best to find a capable replacement who can uphold the high standards Janet has maintained over the years.

## 2024 Field Inspection Wrap-Up

TOM SILER

It seems like the theme this year was “early”. In many parts of the state, there were opportunities to plant early, small grain harvest took place 1-2 weeks earlier than usual, and the dry weather has allowed fall harvest progress to remain ahead of average. This theme also held true for MCIA’s field inspections. Inspections were completely wrapped up by October 3rd this year, which is earlier than anyone at the office can remember. The weather conditions for inspections were excellent this year and allowed our team of 48 inspectors to conduct 4,594 inspections across 1,321 fields, all in 108 days. Completing high quality inspections in such a timely manner is a noteworthy achievement and could not have been done without the hard work and dedication that our inspectors

possess. A lot of time and energy is dedicated to learning about seed production for all the different crops we inspect, and our inspectors are fantastic about attending training and asking questions to improve upon their knowledge. I would like to take a moment to thank our inspectors and let them know their efforts and commitment are appreciated.

The quality of seed fields inspected this year was outstanding overall. Small grain inspections started out quietly with no issues, but rain showers early in the summer resulted in some molds/head blight to develop on a few acres not yet harvested. Early soybean inspections showed no issues, with only small amounts of white mold symptoms detected during final inspections. Corn progress was early and timely moisture ensured adequate pollination. Finally, most dry bean fields inspected showed some levels of white mold and bronzing but were

overall clean from disease. However, a minimal amount of blight and anthracnose were detected on a small number of acres, resulting in rejection for seed use.

This year, we updated our inspection reporting process for all crops. Instead of writing up a paper report after each inspection, information was entered into a phone application while in the field. This information was used to generate an inspection report that was emailed to customers and growers. This is the first year we have used this application across all our inspections, and it was an overall success. Feedback from customers on the reporting process has been positive and we plan to continue to use this system for the foreseeable future. However, if you have any comments or ideas for improvements, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your confidence in our services, we look forward to continue to serve you in the future.





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## MCIA Adds New Germinator

Due to the diversity of crop samples our lab has been receiving, we have transitioned one of our seldom used rooms into a new germinator. The new germinator is capable of different germination temperatures, including alternating temperatures to simulate day and night temperatures. This will allow us to better mimic normal growing conditions for some other types of seeds, such as vegetables and grasses. The new germinator will give us both added capacities, the ability to test media used, and fluctuating temperature zone for seed testing.

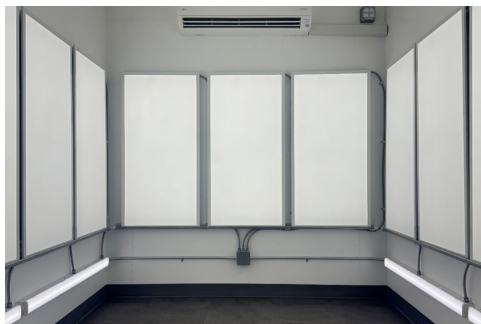


Photo of new germinator.

## Contact Us

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Website: **www.michcrop.com**

## Let's get social!

Find us on Facebook at:

**Michigan Crop Improvement Association**

## Calendar of Events 2024

**Nov. 15, 2024**

**Seed Distribution Reports Due**

*MCIA Office*

**Nov. 28-29, 2024**

**Thanksgiving**

*MCIA Office Closed*

**Dec. 10-13, 2024**

**ASTA Seed Conference**

*Orlando, FL*

**Dec. 25, 2024 - Jan. 2, 2025**

**Holiday**

*MCIA Office Closed*

**Feb. 17, 2025**

**Order Change for Spring Foundation Seed Due**

*MCIA Office*

**Feb. 27, 2025**

**MCIA Annual Membership Meeting**

*Eagle Eye Banquet Center • Bath, MI*