



# The Seed Source

Newsletter of Kansas Crop Improvement Association

October 2024

## Important Dates

**November 5 -**  
General Election

**November 11 -**  
Veterans Day

**November 28—29 -**  
Thanksgiving Day holiday,  
Office Closed

**December 15 -** Distribution  
Reporting Due (online)

**December 24—25 -**  
Christmas holiday,  
Office closed

**January 1 -**  
New Year's Day,  
Office closed

**February 18—19 -**  
Annual Meeting and 2025 Seed  
and Crops Conference

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The Seed Source

If you would like to receive  
"The Seed Source" via email, please contact us  
at [kscrop@kansas.net](mailto:kscrop@kansas.net)

## *End of the myFields Era for Field Applications*

After evaluating the state of the *myFields* program from a user and administrative standpoint, KCIA staff and board made the decision in early 2024 to pursue a new program for the field application process. The natural fit for this program would be for it to be integrated with the existing certification and lab testing dashboard. KCIA staff has been working diligently with JNT Company personnel to bring you a new and improved field application program to be used for the upcoming 2025 production season. We have listened to the suggestions our growers and inspection staff have provided and we believe we will have a highly functional, user-friendly program that will build upon the utility that *myFields* brought to our seed certification program while removing noted pain points.

The new program is still under construction and we are anticipating a launch date in early December. We will keep you informed on when you can begin entering your 2025 production field applications along with tutorial information on using the new program.

With that, please DO NOT enter any of your new fields into the *myFields* system. We will still have access to the *myFields* site and the historical records that exist there, but we will not be using it for new applications.

## *Acreage Fee Adjustment for 2025*

The KCIA Board of Directors voted to increase the acreage fee for certification at the July meeting. Beginning with the 2025 production year, the acreage fee for certification will be \$6.75 per acre. The \$6.00 field fee and \$0.50 per acre research fee will remain the same, as noted in the letter sent in September.

The discussion surrounding this decision centered on four areas:

- Inflation – The previous price increase for acreage fees occurred in 2010. KCIA staff has worked diligently to be mindful of expenses, while still providing a high level of service.
- Technology – KCIA is committed to using a digital format for certification and it is important that we sustain the programs that we have developed to bring efficiencies to certification and the way seed moves throughout our state.
- Research – There are still many research opportunities that can provide benefits to Kansas seed producers; however we have fallen greatly behind in our ability to fully fund many of these projects.
- Promotion – KCIA has not prioritized media promotion of Kansas certified seed in many years. There are opportunities to increase our exposure and promote the benefits of Kansas certified seed, along with the diligent efforts of our producers in bringing high quality, genetically pure seed to the marketplace.

Keeping the services of KCIA at a high level and remaining vigilant of our future are imperative to the success of our organization and its members.

## *2025 Seed and Crops Conference February 18 - 19*

The date is set, February 18th—19th, for the 2025 Seed and Crops Conference. We are currently in the process of planning our annual association meeting and the conference activities including entertainment, speakers, and associate meetings. You can book your room at a discounted rate at the Hilton Garden Inn through January 17th. Find the booking link on our conference page of the website [www.kscrop.org](http://www.kscrop.org). Registration information will be mailed and the website updated as details are confirmed.

We would appreciate any suggested speakers or potential exhibitors contact info to make our event an entertaining, learning, and networking success!

## ***KCIA and Field Inspector Spotlight in Industry Newsletter***

KCIA staff was honored to be the first agency highlighted by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) in their recent fall newsletter. Read the full AOSCA newsletter here: <https://aosca.org/2024-fall-aosca-newsletter/>

Below are excerpts from the AOSCA newsletter pages dedicated to celebrating field inspectors from many different seed certification agencies across the United States and around the world, including three KCIA inspectors nominated by Marion

Ken Troyer has been inspecting fields for KCIA for 17 years. For the last 13, he has taken extra responsibility as one of our field supervisors. In this role, he helps train our new field inspectors, communicate with our growers and cover a large area of Kansas for wheat inspections. He's always ready to take off down the road to help out with inspections all over the state. This past year, he was instrumental in taking over acres far out in western Kansas when other local inspectors had to quit due to health reasons. In addition, he has assisted KCIA with our first ever Durum Wheat field inspections these last two years. When not out in a wheat field, Ken is a communications teacher at Sterling College in Sterling, KS. Before he became a teacher, Ken also served as a wildland firefighter. Ken is a valued member of my inspection team, and I couldn't do it without him!



Bill Wehmuller is a retired NRCS soil scientist who has been a field supervisor for KCIA for 10 years. In this role, he helps train our new field inspectors, communicate with our growers and cover a large area of Kansas for wheat inspections. He has been instrumental in the process of getting ready for wheat inspection season. Bill creates amazing maps for inspectors that are a great help during inspections. He has also put together noxious weed identification pamphlets as well as KCIA standards pamphlets. These training materials are a favorite of inspectors because they are small enough to carry in the field and make a great reference. During wheat inspection season, Bill is a mainstay of my team and will travel around the state helping other inspectors where needed. Bill has also been a great resource helping KCIA build our new online field application system.



Zoeann Patrick has been inspecting wheat fields for KCIA for 14 years. She is one of my most reliable inspectors! She takes on a big area of Kansas and does a fabulous job with inspections and communication with growers. This past year, inspecting for KCIA became a family affair as she helped train her daughter, Kevey as another field inspector. When not out in a wheat field, Zoeann is a teacher.

### ***Dashboard 2.0 Update***

While our initial roll-out of the online tracking dashboard was considered a success, there is always room for improvement. With that in mind we are currently implementing requested feature updates and fixes. You may have already noticed some, such as Lot Tracking now showing an "Original Pounds" matching the lot amount requested on your Form D. You may have also noticed the user-requested boxes on bulk retail sales certificates to enter the buyer's name and shipping date (only available at time of creation). Also in the works, adding discard, own use, and view history to lots currently locked as "pending carryover" and getting all instances of lot weight to display in the user selected bushels/units/pounds. Our development team hopes to have many improvements completed over the winter.

### ***Distribution Reporting Due December 15***

Sales season goes fast, even in a dry year like much of Kansas is currently experiencing. With our switch to a fully online tracking system, distribution reporting doesn't have to wait until all sales are done. If you ordered bulk invoice sticky labels or printed your bulk retail sales certificates, remember to go back into your "Lot Details & Tracking History" to record those sales amounts. You also need to enter any own use or discarded seed. If your bin is empty, your lot should show zero remaining, or nearly none. Small rounding errors by the system will be cleared out by office staff as work load allows this winter. If you have any questions on your records, please contact our office. All reporting on sales and use should be entered by Dec. 15th!

*"To vote is like the payment of a debt, a duty never to be neglected, if its performance is possible."*

*- Rutherford B Hayes*

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Association

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