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Nebraska Seed Focus

Nebraska Crop Improvement Association

2008

Nebraska Seed Focus September 2008

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September 2008

Dates & Events

NCIA Office Hours
7:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30

November 1

Sales Reports Due-Winter
Small Grains

November 27-28

NCIA Office Closed

December 4

NCIA Board of Directors
Meeting

December 15

Sales Reports Due-Grass

December 24-31

NCIA Office Closed

January 1-2

NCIA Office Closed

January 12-14, 2009

Nebraska Seed Improvement
Conference - Ramada Inn,
Kearney, Nebraska

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Nebraska Crop Improvement Association
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www.unl.edu/ncia - dbrestel@unl.edu

Nebraska Seed Law Notes

New germination tests on all agricultural, vegetable, or flower seed shall be obtained on carryover seed each nine (9) months except for cool season grasses, warm season grasses, wheatgrass, lawn and turf grass which shall be tested every twelve (12) months.

Agricultural seeds requiring a new germination test every nine (9) months include seed corn, soybeans, **wheat**, sorghums, sorghum-sudangrass, rye, field beans, barley, millets, alfalfa, clover, oats, field peas, canola, sudangrass, sunflowers, triticale, trefoils, lespedeza, and safflower. For more information on labeling, contact David Svik at the NCIA office at 402-472-8648.

Scab in Wheat Samples

For the second straight year, the NCIA Lab has experienced scab in some of the wheat samples tested. In 2008, the scab infection doesn't seem to be as wide spread as last year; but there have been a few highly infected lots that germinated below 50%. Most of the lots are not that severely infected, but the fungus has a way of affecting the entire sample during the test. Even the seedlings that grow seem to be weaker, smaller, and moldy. This could translate to a weaker stand in the field if nothing is done. The grower has some options if scab is present.

One option is to clean the seed more aggressively to help separate the lighter scabby kernels from the rest of the lot. This will not get rid of all the scab, but it will help improve the overall quality of the lot.

Another option is to treat the seed with a fungicide. We have found that treatment on even some of the highly infected samples gives a significant boost in the germination rate. Samples with a 60% germination without treatment have sometimes received germs of 90% or higher with treatment. Since the fungi seems to be on the surface of otherwise healthy seeds, the treatment gets rid of that weakening effect that scab has on the entire sample giving a strong and normal looking test result. The treatment can't save the chalky dead seeds, but it allows all the seeds with the potential to grow to have a chance. The best way to ensure optimal germination results would be to combine these options by cleaning the lot very aggressively and then treating the lot with an effective seed treatment.

When sending your cleaned sample that you suspect may have scab to the lab, we advise you to test the wheat sample with both a treated germination as well as the regular germination. It saves you from doing a regular germination and then doing another treated one afterwards that takes another 14 days. Wheat samples that do not make the 85% germination standard for certification often will pass when it is treated. Even wheat samples that germinate above 85% with a regular germ but may have scab spores present may have blighted effects on a significant amount of the seedlings. Treatment would be beneficial on these lots to be sure your customers achieve a strong stand this fall.

Husker Harvest Days

Nebraska Crop Improvement will not be present at Husker Harvest Days this year. The University decided to do a water theme for all displays in their building this year. NCIA and Foundation Seed will not be in the University build in 2008.

Bulk Seed Sales

A Bulk Sales Certificate must accompany each sale of Certified seed. This Certificate is the tag for bulk sales. If you sell seed and do not give the purchaser a sales certificate, you violate state and federal labeling laws. The seed would not be considered as certified. NCIA provides these certificates free of charge. Due to the Master License Agreement with Husker Genetics, you will now have two different bulk sales certificates to use. The **“Grower Buyer Agreement and Bulk Sale Certificate”** printed on a full sheet of paper, is to be used for the varieties developed in Nebraska. For example: Alliance, Antelope, Arapahoe, Arrowsmith, Buckskin, Goodstreak, Hallam, Harry, Infinity CL, Millennium, Niobrara, Overland, Pronghorn, Scout 66, Wahoo, and Wesley. The **“Bulk Sale/Transfer Certificate”** should be used for other wheats originating from AgriPro, WestBred, Kansas, and Colorado. Please call the office to request Bulk Sale Certificates.

2008 Fall Seed Guides

2008 Seed Guides have been mailed and are available to members who need extra copies for customers. The Fall Seed Guide also includes the University Variety Tests. The NCIA portion of the seed guide is also available on our website at www.unl.edu/ncia.

Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference 2009

January 12-14
Ramada Inn
Kearney, NE
