



The Seed Source

Newsletter of Kansas Crop Improvement Association

March/April 2024

Important Dates

March 15 – Field Applications were due

May 1 - Payment and return of Form B - Statement of Fields Applied for Certification is due

May 27 - Memorial Day, KCIA office closed

Other important dates

March 31 - Easter Sunday

May 12 - Mothers Day

The Seed Source

If you would like to receive "The Seed Source" via email, please contact us at kscrop@kansas.net

Schuler Bids a Fond Farewell After Twenty-five Years

My last work day with KCIA is March 29. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to KCIA and its members, past and present, for making the twenty-five years I've been with our association something I will look back upon fondly. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and our fine institution.

As I head for not necessarily greener, but different, pastures, I wish all of you the very best going forward. We all know one person does not make an association, and KCIA, with its very dedicated staff and conscientious members will continue to be among the best in the country as it continues its seed certification duties and pursues additional services for current and new members.

Thank you all, once again.

Search for New Executive Director

With Steve Schuler's retirement, the KCIA Board of Directors is actively searching for its next Executive Director. The Board has named a screening committee to work in partnership with Roots & Legacies Consulting to identify qualified candidates.

As part of the leadership transition, other organizational changes have been announced, including Eric Fabrizius' promotion to Director of Operations. Fabrizius will serve as the interim Executive Director until Schuler's replacement is named and will assume responsibilities of his new role once the search process is completed and new leader instated.

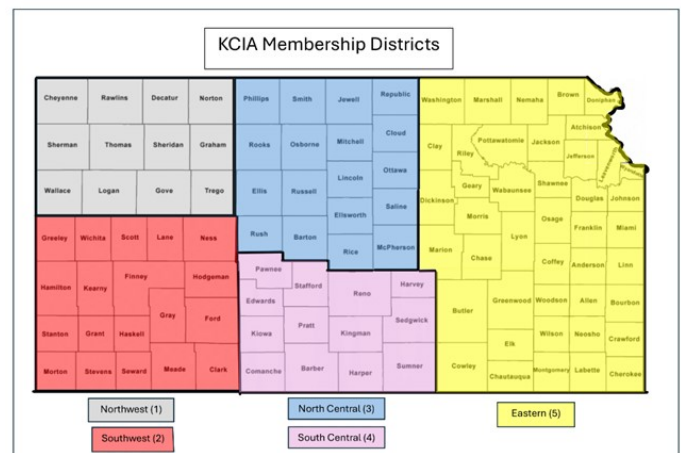
Membership Approves Board Restructuring

The membership in attendance at our annual business meeting in February voted to approve Board redistricting. The proposal reduces the number of districts from seven to five and increases the number of at-large positions from three to five.

The five at-large positions are not restricted by region but may be held by any member. Two of the five positions may be held by non-members elected by the membership.

The proposal was brought forth due to a need to balance membership among the districts and also to enhance opportunities for members to serve on the board.

The Board remains at thirteen directors, including two KSU *ex officio* positions and a position appointed by Kansas Seed Industry Association.



KCIA Board of Directors

The KCIA Board of Directors sets policy and guides the overall direction and activities that maintain our association.

Board elections were held during our annual business meeting. Incumbents Shane Ohlde and Chris Boyd were elected for additional terms, and Ben McClure was elected as director of the Southwest District for outgoing director Matt Lobmeyer. The election was held under the new redistricted structure.

The board had appointed Caleb Sipes to finish the term as At-Large for Tyler Ediger, who had stepped down.

Your current Board of Directors are: President, At-Large, Dustin Miller, Hutchinson; VP-Research, At-Large, Alex King, Manhattan; VP-Standards, South Central, Chris Boyd, Medicine Lodge; Eastern, Rich Falkenstien, Oswego; Northwest, Evan Lesser, Palco; North-Central, Dan Rhine, Salina; At-Large, Aaron Yoder, Bartlett; At-Large, Caleb Sipes, Manter; At-Large, Shane Ohlde, Palmer; Southwest, Ben McClure, Hugoton; *ex officio*, Head, KSU Department of Agronomy, Dr. Rajiv Kohsla, Manhattan; KSIA Representative to KCIA, Durango Schmidt, Hutchinson; *ex officio Dir KSU Res and Ext, open*.

We are fortunate to have such leadership among our members.



(Left) Dustin Miller presents Matt Lobmeyer with a plaque in recognition of his service as Southwest Director during the annual business meeting.



(Right) Dustin Miller presents Tyler Ediger with a plaque in recognition of his service as West-At-Large Director during the annual business meeting.

President's Award Presented at Annual Business Meeting

The Presidents Award was created to allow the general membership of KCIA the opportunity to nominate for recognition, those persons or businesses whose activity has directly benefitted or promoted our association, the certified seed industry, or the general welfare of our members.

Board President Dustin Miller presented this award to our retiring Executive Director, Steve Schuler during the KCIA annual business meeting on February 22, 2024.

During his time as the Executive Director, there has been great progress made towards moving the association into the future by implementing a digital format to assist the membership in being more efficient and to accommodate the pace at which business happens in our world today; all while maintaining the basic fundamentals of seed certification and the importance of the details found at the field level.

Throughout his 25 years of service to KCIA, Steve has been very involved in exploring new opportunities for KCIA in the areas of organic inspections and quality assurance programs, as well as given of his time and expertise in serving our national organization, AOSCA, as well as Kansas State University and the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

At the core of his leadership, however, has been the commitment to oversee a program which applies the fundamental KCIA directive for seed certification and to adhere to the high standards advocated by the membership, to make Kansas certified seed a recognizable, high quality product; and doing so in a manner which has seen the association grow to be financially stable and in a position to be prepared for the future.

Steve is the fifth recipient of the President's Award since its inception in 2013.



Kansas Crop Improvement
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Seed Innovation and Protection Alliance Speaks at 2024 Seed and Crops Conference

Attendees of the 2024 Seed and Crops Conference had the opportunity to learn about the importance of protecting intellectual property rights of agricultural seed developments. Presented by Eloy Corona, Executive Director of the Seed Innovation Protection Alliance (SIPA), it touched on topics such as the dollar amount seed development brings to the world-wide agriculture market, the percentage seed companies invest in R&D, and some case studies of corporate espionage.

SIPA supports the use of education to protect innovation and facilitate respect of intellectual property rights and has a number of helpful links and articles to help educate the public on the value of professionally produced and certified seed versus bin run saved seed.

Several seed companies you know are members and will be notified if anyone provides a confidential tip of illegal seed or technology use through the SIPA website (www.seedipalliance.com) or 1-844-SEED-TIP. Illegal use includes the unauthorized production of seed, saving of seed, unauthorized selling of seed, and breeding or improvements of seed.

Field/Certification notes from Marion

The deadline for field applications from summer inspected crops, such as wheat, was March 15. If you haven't submitted your applications yet, please do so immediately, but be aware that late field applications may be subject to late fees. I am in the process of reviewing all applications and I will contact you if there is any missing information or needed edits. Please make sure your maps are correctly drawn on myfields. Last year we had some significant inspector delays due to badly drawn maps and insufficient driving directions.

It is never too early to begin planning for field inspections. Take some time to review the field standards for your crops. Take note of isolation and boundary marking requirements to separate varieties and/or classes, and the limits on off-types and variants. I will be updating our variety characteristic and variant table and posting it on our website for your reference. Make sure your roguing crews know the field standards as well, particularly the list of prohibited weeds and other crops. The inspector training materials on our website could be helpful while training your crews. Last year we continued to have trouble during wheat inspections with Field Bindweed, Musk Thistle, Rye, and Triticale to name a few. I know very well how harvest season is always extremely busy, so preparing your fields for inspection early is in your best interest to avoid delays and the need for re-inspections.

KCIA is always looking for good field inspectors, so if you know anyone in your area who would be interested, please contact the office. I am also looking for qualified college students to participate in our summer internship.

Finally, I have updated KCIA's LinkedIn page, and I have plans to post more regularly on it in the coming months. This is in conjunction with an AOSCA marketing initiative to help seed certification have more of a presence online. Stories about your family or company history with seed certification could be a great way to give seed certification a voice online. If you have any stories you would like to share, or if you have any particular educational content or pictures you would be interested in seeing, please let me know!

Visit and follow KCIA's LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/kansas-crop-improvement-association>.

Form B Statements Due May 1

Going out in April, the Form B Statement is the place to note cancellations or corrections to a field application. Please verify all details for all fields. Class change requests after the May 1st return deadline may be assessed a \$50 late class change fee.

Email Changes

Please update your email contacts as [sfskcia @ kansas.net](mailto:sfskcia@kansas.net) will not be maintained indefinitely. For general inquiries contact Erica at [kscrop @ kansas.net](mailto:kscrop@kansas.net). For billing questions or to request an invoice, [kciabooks @ kansas.net](mailto:kciabooks@kansas.net). All field inspection and QA program questions are being handled by Marion at [mस्कcia @ kansas.net](mailto:mस्कcia@kansas.net). Lab related questions still go to Eric at [efkcia @ kansas.net](mailto:efkcia@kansas.net) as will any administration questions for the immediate future.

KCIA Celebrates Upcoming Retirement

Steve Schuler was hired in March of 1999 as the Inspections Manager / Certification Director. In January of 2010, he was named the Executive Director for KCIA, while still maintaining his lead role as the Inspection Manager. On Thursday March 21, friends, family, and coworkers gathered at the Kansas Wheat Commission building to celebrate his upcoming retirement. Attendees enjoyed food, cake, and a variety of Call Hall ice cream flavors.

Never one for long speeches, Steve thanked attendees and shared his appreciation for the relationships with association members he developed over the years. Gifts included a manure fork for care of his horses and a caricature drawing of Steve in a wheat field, which was signed by attendees as a guestbook.

For those of you who could not attend, we thought you might enjoy some photos of the festivities.



(Left) Steve and family doing their best *American Gothic* impressions



(Right) Steve and his likeness

(Below) Steve catches up with various attendees

