



# NEBRASKA SEED FOCUS

*A Publication of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association*



**Mark & Jan Knobel**



**Emery & Sybil Fox**



**Amanda Easterly**



**Joel & Deanna Maschmann**

## NCIA AWARDS

At the 2025 Seed Improvement Conference, Mark Knobel of Knobel Seeds was awarded the 2024 NCIA Premier Seed Grower award.

Mark's career in seed production spans decades of dedication and hard work, particularly in growing high-quality hard red winter wheat and soybeans. His commitment to producing top-quality seed has had a lasting impact on Nebraska agriculture.

Mark's contributions go beyond his farm. He has been a dedicated leader with the Nebraska Wheat Board, serving in various roles and helping advance the interests of wheat growers in Nebraska.

He has also served on the boards of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association, Nebraska Seed Trade Association, Nebraska Farm Bureau, and the Nebraska FFA Association, demonstrating his commitment to both the agricultural industry and future generations of leaders in agriculture.

Mark was previously honored as a Premier Seed Grower in 1997, and it is with great pride that we celebrate his continued dedication to seed production.

## DATES and EVENTS

March 24  
NCIA Board Meeting

May 1  
Field Applications - Small Grains,  
Peas, Grasses

May 26  
Holiday - Office Closed

June 1  
Field Applications - Corn

July 1  
Field Applications - Millet, Soybeans,  
Chickpeas

July 4  
Holiday - Office Closed

August 1  
Sales Disposition - Spring Small  
Grains, Peas, Millet, Soybeans

August 11  
NCIA Board Meeting

September 1  
Sales Disposition - Chickpeas

September 1  
Holiday - Office Closed

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 14, 2025  
KEARNEY, NE**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jim Girardin President.
- It was determined that a quorum of the membership was present.
- The agenda was reviewed. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
- It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting as presented. Motion carried.
- Conrad Nelson gave a preliminary treasurer's report. NCIA's total income was \$751,450. Expenses were \$641,329 for a net gain of \$101,319. These are all preliminary numbers. It was moved and seconded to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried.
- Pageler gave an NGN Committee of Management report. The Committee of Management met December 5. The bylaws were discussed. The main topic was the need for a Committee of Management. Most members agreed that there is not a need anymore. There was also discussion on soybeans sales. Most soybeans sold were enlist. It was also noted a settlement of the Husa lawsuit was received.
- The Nominating Committee report was presented. Eric Nelson will run for re-election as District 1. Lars Engstrom and Randy Peters were nominated for the two open State-at-Large positions. Girardin asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. It was moved and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.
- Jim Girardin asked for old business. There was no old business.
- Jim Girardin asked for new business. There were no resolutions or proposals.
- Pageler reviewed changes to the by-laws. It was moved and seconded to approve the bylaws as presented. Motion carried.
- Pageler gave a management report. It was a year of steady progress and the best financial year of the last 15. Lynn Robinson has resigned. NCIA is in the process of hiring a new Lab Services Supervisor. Pageler shared the new mission and vision statements.

Pageler recognized Jim Girardin as the past president and out going board member and Chris Cullan as an out going board member.

- It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

**AWARDS (CONTINUED)**

The **Presidential Award of Excellence**, established in 1996, recognizes a member for their exceptional performance in their responsibilities and their overall commitment to the Association. NCIA President Jim Girardin presented the 2025 award to Emery Fox. Emery Fox (Heritage Seed, Crawford) was a member of NCIA from 1992 through 2023. Emery was honored as the 2014 NCIA Premier Seed Grower. He served on the NCIA board from 2015-2023 and was President from 2020-2023.

The **Distinguished Service Award**, established in 1950, and originally known as the "Agronomist Award," was initiated to recognize individuals in agronomy, agribusiness, or other disciplines who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare of Nebraska agriculture, particularly in crop production and utilization.

Chris Cullan presented the award to Amanda Easterly, research associate professor of agronomy and horticulture. Easterly coordinates research projects at the High Plains Ag Lab and around the state and is a member of the Dryland Cropping Systems Program. Her current research focuses on the needs of producers who farm in the semi-arid Nebraska Panhandle and surrounding regions, including selecting cultivars, management practices, and abiotic and biotic stresses that limit productivity.

**Thirty-year Membership Awards** were presented to Maschmann Mills, Deshler; Todd Valley Farms, Mead; and V & F Farms, Chappell.

Scholarship winners were recognized. Mia Malcom of Minden received the Dennis Thompson Scholarship. Laura Albro of Lincoln was the recipient of the Upper Classman scholarship.

**NCIA BOARD REORGANIZES**

Eric Nelson was re-elected to represent District 1. Lars Engstrom and Randy Peters were elected to fill the two open State-at-Large positions. The board elected a slate of officers for 2025. Ruben Wehnes was elected President, Conrad Nelson Vice-President, and Eric Nelson Secretary-Treasurer. Mike Fritz will serve as the NSTA representative to the NCIA board. Other board members include Leon Kriesel, Duane Muhlback, Dr. Martha Mamo, and Dr. Mike Boehm.



## 2026 SEED IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

The 33rd annual Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference will bring together the memberships of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association and the Nebraska Seed Trade Association. It will be held January 12-14, 2026, at Embassy Suites, LaVista, Nebraska.

## NUPRIDE UPDATE

The NCIA Board of Directors has decided to dissolve the NuPride Genetics Network (NGN) Committee of Management. This decision comes as the conclusion of all small grains licenses with the University of Nebraska has reduced NGN's size to a level that no longer necessitates a separate committee. As a result, the NGN annual meeting will no longer be held. Instead, financial, and operational updates will be included in the NCIA Annual Meeting, and an NGN report will be presented at each NCIA Board Meeting.

NGN issues or questions can be directed to your board member or directly to the NCIA office.

## FIELD INSPECTIONS

As spring approaches, we are preparing for a busy summer inspection season. Now is a good time to get all your field applications finished. Small grains and field pea applications are due on May 1. Even if you are not sure you will use a field for seed, apply for it now. You can remove it before May 1 without paying any fees. Be sure to include your seed source paperwork with your application. Double check your maps when you're finished to make sure they are mapped in the correct place. As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to our office. We look forward to a successful summer.

## SEED SOURCE VERIFICATION

Seed source requires official documentation when making application for field inspections. A basic principle of certification and a key aspect of traceability is that seed moves with an official label. An official label, whether a tag, label, or certificate, is issued by the state agency that has certified the seed. This document is how certification agencies communicate with each other to track seed. The official document, no matter if a tag, label, or certificate, must be issued by the certification agency. A tote placard is not an official label, regardless of how well it is designed or how complete the information. Everyone involved with certified seed should recognize an official document and be advised on the need to retain the seed labels.

## Field Application Due Dates

Small Grains, Grass, Peas	May 1
Corn	June 1
Millet, Soybeans, Chickpeas	July 1

## Sales Disposition Due Dates

Spring Grains, Peas,	
Millet, Soybeans	August 1
Chickpeas	September 1
Winter Grains, Grass	December 1

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

The 2024 NCIA Annual Report is complete. Also available are the new NCIA Seed Certification Standards updated in January 2025. If you would like a copy of either document, please email [dbrestel@unl.edu](mailto:dbrestel@unl.edu) and let Diane know if you want a copy mailed or emailed to you.