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North Dakota Producers Honored for Ag Contributions



Myron Blumhagen (left photo) receives Distinguished Service award from past NDCISA president Del Gates and Mike Gartner (right photo) receives Premier Seed Grower award.

North Dakota producers Myron Blumhagen and Mike Gartner were honored at the North Dakota Crop Improvement and Seed Association's 65th annual conference in Bismarck.

Blumhagen, of Drake, received the Distinguished Service Award for making significant contributions to agriculture at the local, county, state and regional level.

He grows spring wheat, peas, soybeans, canola, alfalfa, lentils, chickpeas and flax. He also is president of the McHenry County Township Officers Association; a member of the North Central Research Extension Center Board of Visitors, McHenry County Ag Improvement Association, Drake Rural Fire District and McHenry County Water Resource District; a Spring Grove Township supervisor; and a delegate to the North Dakota Farmers Union convention.

When not busy on his own farm, Blumhagen enjoys helping other farmers, hunting, fishing and spending time with his wife, Mary, and their sons, Eric and Ryan.

Gartner received the Premier Seed Grower Award for his significant contributions to the certified seed industry.

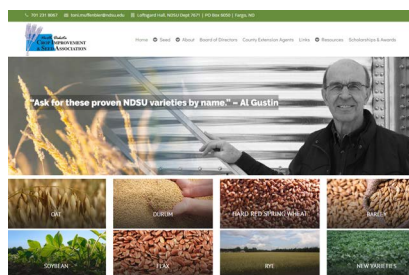
Gartner, of Mandan, owns Gartner Seed Farm and is known for his oat expertise. He has produced certified seed for more than 25 years and grows wheat, barley, oats, peas and durum.

He has provided seed for local and state exhibitions. He also has been active in many organizations, including the Morton County Farm Bureau, Morton County Crop Improvement Association, North Dakota Crop Improvement and Seed Association, Northern Great Plains Research Station Focus Group and Morton County Rural Fire Department.

Nominations are being sought for the Distinguished Service and Premier Seed Grower awards for 2018. A nomination form is available online at www.ndcropimprovement.com or contact Toni at 701-231-8067 to nominate someone for these awards.

Check Out NDCISA's New Website

Head over to www.ndcropimprovement.com and check out the brand new website that was unveiled last month. There are exciting new features that will help you learn more about crop varieties, seed dealers, scholarships and awards and all things NDCISA related!



Mission: Enhancing North Dakota agriculture through the production, promotion, and distribution of pure seed.

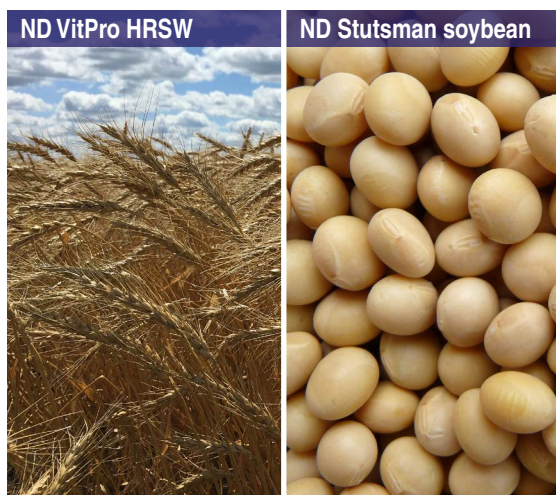
New Variety Releases

The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station recently released four new varieties. The North Dakota State University's Hard Red Spring Wheat Breeding program developed ND VitPro and the Soybean Breeding program developed ND17009GT, ND Benson and ND Stutsman.

These new varieties, along with MN-Lang hard red spring wheat developed at the University of Minnesota, are currently in the ND County Seed Increase Program and will be grown this year by producers in counties receiving seed allocations. Registered seed is anticipated to be available in the spring of 2018.

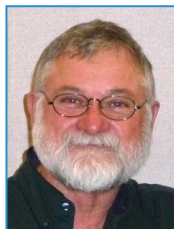
- **ND VitPro HRSW** – high protein and test weight, improved straw strength, excellent vitreous kernel percentage and outstanding kernel and milling traits
- **ND17009GT soybean** – glyphosate resistant, 00.9 maturity, high yield potential and phytophthora root rot resistance (race 4)
- **ND Benson soybean** – conventional, 0.4 maturity, SCN resistance and phytophthora root rot resistance (races 3, 4)
- **ND Stutsman soybean** – conventional, 0.7 maturity, high yield potential and phytophthora root rot resistance (race 3)
- **MN-Lang HRSW** – medium maturing variety that combines yield, quality and disease resistance, high protein and very good test weight

The North Dakota Crop Improvement and Seed Association has a license agreement with the NDSU Research Foundation to produce and distribute seed of these new NDSU varieties. To help ensure genetic purity all varieties will be protected under PVPA Title V and must be sold as a class of certified seed.



Answers to "Where to go for help with these issues?":

1 – A, 2 – A, 3 – C, 4 – A, 5 – E, 6 – D, 7 – A, 8 – B, 9 – A, 10 – B, 11 – B, 12 – C/D, 13 – D, 14 – A, 15 – B



Williams Retires as North Dakota Foundation Seedstocks Director

Dr. M. Dale Williams retired after more than 15 years of helping provide farmers in North Dakota with plentiful supplies of pure seed for the production of excellent quality crops.

Williams began working with Crop Improvement Associations in Stillwater, OK in 1985. He then moved to College Station, TX to serve as Assistant Director and Director of the Texas Foundation Seed Service until 2001. He replaced the retiring LeRoy Spilde (NDSU Professor Emeritus) as Director of the North Dakota Foundation Seedstocks Project in 2001.

At a reception held on March 7 in Loftsgard Hall, several colleagues congratulated Williams and wished him well. NDSU soybean breeder Ted Helms thanked Williams and said, "Dale's insight helped me make crucial decisions for the soybean breeding project, and he worked hard to bring agriculture groups together to improve North Dakota seed varieties." ND Foundation Seedstocks Assistant Director Gonzalo Rojas-Cifuentes, retired NDSU Agronomy Seed Farm Director Tom Teigen and ND Crop Improvement and Seed Association Vice President Luke Anderson also thanked Williams.

Williams says he looks forward to "having more personal time to engage with family and friends," but he will "greatly miss the excitement of working with what I consider the finest people, greatest foundation seed program and greatest agriculture state in the United States."

— NDSU Plant Sciences Department



Hertzell wins NDCISA sponsored ND FFA Foundation SAE Grant

Congratulations to Tige Hertzell of Munich who received the ND Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE) Grant. The ND Crop

Improvement & Seed Association is the only individual sponsor for this \$1000 grant.

Hertzell's SAE is in grain production entrepreneurship. He will be planting 24 acres of spring wheat this year. The grant will go toward purchasing seed, fertilizer and chemical. He has a work exchange agreement with his parents on fuel and machinery. Hertzell will also use the money to help pay for land rent at \$25/acre.

SAEs provide a format for students to learn tools and necessary job skills not only in production agriculture and agribusiness, but in the trades. SAEs also teach invaluable transferable skills like record keeping and employee/employer relations. There are 4 basic types of SAEs:

Entrepreneurship – a student owns and operates an agricultural business (e.g. a lawn care service, produce stand, animal or crop production).

Placement – a student earns a job or internship on a farm or ranch, at an agriculture-based business, or in a school or factory laboratory.

Research & Experimentation – a student plans and conducts a scientific experiment.

Exploratory – a student explores careers in agriculture by attending an agriculture career fair or by creating a report or documentary on a career.

Encourage high school FFA students to apply for these excellent grants by contacting Tamra Maddock at the ND FFA Foundation, tmaddock@ndffa.org.

N.D. Crop Improvement and Seed Association Donates \$25,000 for Seed Conditioning Facility



The North Dakota Crop Improvement and Seed Association (NDCISA) has donated \$25,000 to North Dakota State University's North Central Research Extension Center (NCREC) in Minot for a new seed-conditioning facility.

"This facility is a long-term investment in North Dakota's agriculture producers and we thank the NDCISA for their donation," says Shana Forster, NCREC director. "Once built it will help us meet the current and future needs of the seed industry and serve our clients' needs."

In the 2015-2017 legislative session, the N.D. Legislature granted \$750,000 to the NCREC for the new facility, with permission to raise funds for an additional \$1.5 million to contribute to the project. The State Board of Higher Education approved these numbers.

An active fundraising campaign is ongoing through the NDSU Foundation and Alumni Association.

Groundbreaking on the project is expected sometime this year.

Where to go for help with these issues?

Can you correctly identify where to go for help if you have a question with the following issues using the options A, B, C, D or E?

1. field inspections _____
2. seed grower list _____
3. requesting varieties from out of state _____
4. research fees _____
5. soil samples _____
6. requesting a seed allocation of a new variety _____
7. seed sample bags _____
8. association (check-off) fees _____
9. seed certification _____
10. Dakota Select Seed _____
11. NDCISA seed increase agreement (contract) _____
12. new variety information _____
13. seeding rates _____
14. bulk certificates _____
15. DSS seed increase agreement (contract) _____

- A. ND State Seed Department
- B. ND Crop Improvement & Seed Association
- C. NDSU Foundation Seedstocks
- D. Local Extension Service agent
- E. NDSU Soil Testing Lab

See Page 2 for The Answers

Congratulations Scholarship Winners!

The NDCISA actively supports education by sponsoring 6 - \$1000 scholarships for college students. This year's winners are listed below. Hearty congratulations to these students — keep up the good work!

Nathan Steffan – Michigan, ND – Incoming Freshman
Traci Lagein – Rock Lake, ND – Incoming Freshman
Alex Abrahamson – St. John, ND – Incoming Freshman
Alex Wittenberg – Valley City, ND – Undergrad
Karley Volochenko – Balfour, ND – Undergrad
Kamron Matejcek – Brocket, ND – Undergrad

Encourage students you know to apply for these scholarships next year. Applications and eligibility information can be found online at www.ndcropimprovement.com.

Calendar

2017

June 28-29	NDCISA Board of Directors Summer Meeting, Bismarck
July 10	Central Grasslands Research Extension Center, Streeter
July 11	Hettinger Research Extension Center
July 12	Dickinson Research Extension Center
July 13-14	Williston Research Extension Center
Thursday, July 13	Dryland tour – Williston Research Extension Center
Friday, July 14	Irrigated tour – Nesson Research & Development Farm tour, located 23 miles E of Williston on Hwy #1804.
July 17	Agronomy Seed Farm, Casselton
July 18	Carrington Research Extension Center
July 19	North Central Research Extension Center, Minot
July 20	Langdon Research Extension Center (8 a.m.-12 noon with lunch to follow)



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Meet a Director

TROY COONS

Where are you from?

I grew up in Donnybrook, ND. I started farming on my own when I was 14 years old. While growing up we were involved in a very diverse operation involving seed farming along with raising feeder cattle, stock cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs. Upon high school graduation, I attended NDSU and graduated with an Ag Economics degree. There was a period where I resided in Sacramento, CA for 11 years all the while traveling to keep up the farm in ND. In California I owned and operated a fitness center as well as a tanning equipment manufacturing facility. The tanning equipment sales were widespread throughout the US, Canada, Europe and several Asian countries. After having children, I came to realize my true passion was in farming. I made the decision to give up my California businesses and move back to ND on a full-time basis. Our current family-owned operation, along with our three full-time employees and two part-time employees, C&C Farms, Donnybrook, ND, takes pride in providing a wide variety of top quality seed and feed to our farmers, ranchers, and pet owners.

In what county/counties do you farm?

I farm in Mountrail and Ward counties.

Family?

I farm with my parents William Coons and Lonnie Coons. I have four children that are listed from youngest to oldest: Sierra, Lane, Kayla and Daniel.

How many years have you been involved with NDCISA?

I became involved with NDCISA shortly after graduating college, approximately 1985. I have served on the state board for 18+ years. I am currently 2nd Vice Chair of NDCISA.

How did you become interested in NDCISA?

Early in my life, I realized the importance of having a vision, but more importantly if I wanted change, I needed to become involved to make it happen. I saw the value of local guidance and input in the NDSU seed propagation system.

What are your recommendations to someone who would be interested in becoming a member of NDCISA?

I highly recommend involvement by becoming a member of your county NDCISA to better understand their roles in enhancing seed production. Attend district meetings and become a board member to actively participate in the local guidance and enhancement of producing high quality pure seed.

