

# SDSU Seednews

Volume 29 Issue 1

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*Special points of interest:*

- Due Dates
- May 15 Cool Season Grasses
- May 31 Small Grains, Flax, Pulse Crops, and Warm Season Grasses
- July 1 Soybeans

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## Germination Expiration Dates and Purity Requirements

Like the milk in my refrigerator germination tests have an expiration date. But unlike milk you should not go beyond the date and consider it good. The time periods for different types of seed are defined in the SD State Seed Law. **The germination test for agricultural seed is nine months**, this encompasses small grains and row crops. Vegetable and flower seed germination tests are valid for 12 months and turf seed for 15 months.

The time periods stated above are for in state movement. When seed is moved across state lines the valid period for germination tests is shortened to 5 months.

The time periods for in state movement are exclusive of the month the germination test was completed. If a germination test for oats was completed on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 the valid period for that test would be from March thru November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 or if a test was completed on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 that test would be valid from July to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The same applies to out of state movement of seed but with a 5 month period. If wheat seed being shipped out of state was tested on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the test would be good from July through November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

There is no time period for the purity or noxious weed seed examinations. They are valid as long as the seed remains in good condition. If seed falls out of condition over time, it should be retested to obtain accurate results but this is not a requirement.

With the computerization of our record keeping SDCIA is better able to keep track of the time periods germination tests are valid. It has been built into the system that in order to complete a sale using the bulk sales certificate a germination test must fall within the time periods stated above.

**Certified seed must have a purity and noxious exam on file before the seed can be sold** as certified seed. This requirement ensures that the seed meets the requirements in the Certification Seed Standards. The purity and noxious exam will give you the percentage of pure seed in the sample and the rate and occurrence of other crop seed and common weed seed if present. It also confirms that no noxious weed seed is present in the sample. The purity and noxious exam are required by the South Dakota State Seed Law.

# Field Applications

Applications for field inspection of classes of Certified seed, including Quality Assurance, will be due soon. If at all possible, use the on-line application process. By doing so you will greatly expedite the handling of the applications. The on-line applications allows SDCIA to send the application directly to the field inspector with no lag time. Instructions for on-line applications can be found on the SDCIA website (<https://www.sdcorp.org/>) under the guides tab. Enclosed with this mailing is an instruction manual to do online applications and sales. There is also a link under this tab that will take you to the site where you will begin the actual application. If you need paper applications, you will need to call SDCIA and request them.

It is important that the application(s) be filled out completely and have all the necessary documentation included. Now is a good time to line up the following:

**FOUNDATION OR REGISTERED** name tag or bulk sales certificate to show proof of the seed source planted (growers planting their own **REGISTERED** seed must include a copy of the official **SEED TEST REPORT**).

Legal description of the field, plus a map (FSA preferred) or a drawing on the application will work.

Previous crop grown on the field in 2020.

The date the field(s) was planted.

Provide directions to your field and/or farm.

Due dates for 2021 Field Inspection Applications are as follows:

May 15.....Cool Season Grasses  
**May 31**.....Small Grains, Pulse Crops, Flax and Warm Season Grasses  
July 1.....Soybeans (One Inspection), Millet and all other Crops  
\*\*.....Soybeans (Two Inspections), Two weeks following planting

Late fees will apply on applications postmarked after the above due dates. **One late fee of \$50.00 will be applied to all applications from a seed grower. There will no longer be a late field fee on top of the late application fee.** Growers who delay in filing an application until after inspections for that crop have already begun cannot be guaranteed that their application will be accepted. In such cases where applications are accepted, the grower will be charged actual time and mileage incurred by the inspector in addition to the late application fee. Field inspection fees for 2021 will again be \$1.50 per acre. If fields require two inspections (soybeans) the applicant will be charged for each visit. If an inspector needs to make a re-inspection of the field due to a problem that requires a correction, the applicant will be charged the \$1.50/acre fee for the second inspection.

You can help the inspector by having your fields ready before the actual inspection. Keep the following items in mind:

**Isolation.** Different crops require certain isolation distances, either from other crops or varieties of the same crop. Please refer to the SDCIA Handbook of Seed Certification Standards for the crop you are producing. The inspector needs to be able to see how fields are separated.

**Weeds of concern.** A number of weeds are listed in the Standards that need to be controlled. Examples include field bindweed, wild oats and jointed goatgrass.

**Continued next page.**

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# Field Applications Continued

**Other crops.** You may need to rogue (remove) other crops from your seed fields before the field inspector arrives. Examples include corn in soybeans, rye or triticale in winter wheat and oats in wheat, or vice versa.

Be proactive. You know your fields and the areas that are prone to problems. Also, the inspector may advise an easy correction to a field that may not need a re-inspection. It is your responsibility to make any corrections noted on the field inspection report. If you have not heard from your inspector or our office, don't assume the field has been walked. If a field has been harvested before inspection, it cannot be certified. Call if you are not sure.

## Pre-Tagging of Certified Seed

In the last month SDCIA has had a couple of incidents with pre-tagging. Pre-tagging is the practice where certification tags are issued before the final tests have been completed. This practice is common with seed certification agencies to help facilitate the movement of seed. The incidents involved low germination scores. The tags that were issued had to be destroyed and the seed was not eligible for certification. This issue was presented to the SDCIA at their past board meeting and it was determined that in order to pre issue tags a purity, noxious and TZ test must be completed. This requirement will add 24 hours to the wait to have tags printed but will help prevent the tags from having to be destroyed.

## 2021 Watertown Winter Farm Show State Crops Contest

This year due to Covid, the display portion of the Watertown Winter Farm Show was not held. The livestock and state crops contest were conducted as normal. The number of forage and silage samples remained consistent with past years but the number of entries in the crops contest were down. This year's winner of the one-thousand-dollar drawing was Bryon Florey of Brookings. His grandfather, Mike Florey of Clark thought that it would be nice to enter a sample in his grandson's name. It always amazes me what come from the blessings of grandparents. They elected to donate the winnings to the Clark County 4-H.

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## Bulk Seed Sales

Bulk seed sales can be sold in three different ways. The first is seed sold that has not been conditioned. In this case a Pending Certification Certificate must be used and the only persons eligible for this type of sales are Approved Conditioners. Seed that has been conditioned and is sold in bulk can be sold directly to the final user. In these cases, the seed cannot be resold. The third option for bulk seed is that it can be sold to a bulk retail facility. These facilities are members of SDCIA and have been inspected and approved by the SDCIA board of directors. The requirements for the sales of bulk seed have been set in place for your protection. Going through unapproved facilities negates the certification of that seed and opens the seller/certified seed supplier to unnecessary liability. The sales of conditioned bulk seed must be accompanied by a bulk sales certificate.

## SDCrop.org and sdciacert.org Web Sites

The new web site for SDCIA is up and running at [www.SDCrop.org](http://www.SDCrop.org). There is much information that is valuable to seedsmen listed on the site. Please make use of the site. Let us know of any additional items that should be included. We tried to make the site as clean and user friendly as possible. Field applications, field inspections, sales and inventory are managed on [www.sdciacert.org](http://www.sdciacert.org).