



Inside ICIA

December, 2025



President's Corner

Bill Stumph
ICIA Board President

As we quickly approach the new year, I am honored to serve as ICIA's Board President during the organization's 126th year.

Although my background is in finance rather than seed technology, I believe strongly in the impact of leadership and service. Since joining the ICIA Board several years ago, my goal has been to contribute my experience to support sound decision-making and continuous improvement. ICIA is a strong organization with a highly capable and dedicated staff, and it is a privilege to support their work.

ICIA's governance model is one of its greatest strengths. Board members are selected from within the membership, ensuring transparency, accountability, and meaningful member representation. This structure brings diverse expertise to the table and strengthens communication between the board, staff, and members.

For smaller organizations like ours—where staff often serve in multiple roles—the board's collective knowledge is especially valuable, supplementing internal resources in areas such as HR, technology, legal matters, and strategic planning. This collaboration supports thoughtful decisions that benefit both employees and member organizations.

Serving on the ICIA Board is ultimately about helping others. Service strengthens relationships, builds community, and advances the organization's mission. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and for those who generously give their time and expertise.

Merry Christmas and warm wishes for the year ahead.

New ICIA Board Members

We are excited to welcome these dedicated leaders who bring diverse experience, fresh perspectives, and a shared commitment to our mission. We look forward to their guidance and the positive impact they will have as we move forward together.



Becca Brattain
KWS Cereals USA



Doug Rice
Corteva Agriscience



Brad Thada
Weaver Hybrids



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www.indianacrop.org

On Time for your Success

Craig Nelson, CEO, ICIA

I want to take a moment to highlight one of the most important commitments we uphold at the Indiana Crop Improvement Association, our dedication to providing timely, dependable service to our members.



In an industry where planting windows are narrow, logistics are complex, and quality decisions often hinge on rapid access to accurate data, the value of prompt service cannot be overstated. Every test result, certification report, field inspection, and customer inquiry we deliver on time directly supports our members' ability to plan, respond, and succeed in an increasingly fast-paced environment. Our team is focused on reducing turnaround times, improving communication, and ensuring that our members can rely on ICIA as a trusted partner. Timeliness is not simply a metric for us, it is a reflection of our respect for the work our members do, the pressures they face, and the confidence they place in our association. Thank you for your continued trust as we strive to meet your needs with urgency, accuracy, and unwavering commitment.



Member Focus



JoMar Seeds Welcomes Adam Gerard as Licensing Executive

JoMar Seeds, Inc. is pleased to announce the hiring of Adam Gerard as Licensing Executive as the company continues to strengthen its team in support of long-term growth.

With more than 75 years of combined experience, JoMar Seeds is a leading genetic supplier specializing in the development and licensing of elite wheat varieties. The company partners with independent seed companies across the United States and Canada, providing proven genetics supported by extensive performance data and agronomic expertise to help clients succeed in diverse growing environments.

In his role, Adam will work closely with JoMar's licensed partners to support their seed businesses through strategic relationship management and access to JoMar's genetic portfolio. Based in Pennsylvania, he will oversee accounts across the East Coast, parts of the Midwest, and Canada.

"As we continue to build our company infrastructure for the future, we are excited to welcome Adam to the team," said Greg Gerard, CEO of JoMar Seeds. "His addition supports our ongoing commitment to delivering exceptional service, strong partnerships, and industry-leading genetics to our clients."

Adam is a graduate of Houghton University and joins JoMar Seeds following experience in real estate and small business development.

DID YOU KNOW?

★ **Poinsettias are one of the top potted plants sold in the U.S.?**
They're grown in greenhouses months in advance, with light carefully controlled to make the leaves turn red just in time for Christmas. ★

ICIA Crops & Soils Merit Award

ICIA was pleased to honor two outstanding leaders in agriculture with the Crops & Soils Merit Award during the 2025 Corn Belt Seed & Grain Conference.

Donn Cummings is recognized for his groundbreaking work in advancing plant breeding and fostering innovative solutions. These efforts have delivered high impact for aspiring plant breeders and the plant breeding profession throughout the United States and internationally. His career has spanned many years, including his work as Monsanto's Global Breeder Sourcing Lead in 2007, where he provided overall leadership and global strategic planning to build a PhD and MS. level plant breeder talent pipeline for the company. In March 2024, Donn received a prestigious award from the Raymond F. Baker Center for Plant Breeding at Iowa State University.



(L-R) Jim Parks, Donn Cummings, and Craig Nelson

Now retired, Donn and his wife Tanya reside in Brownsburg, Indiana. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Donn Cummings for his accomplishments and this well-deserved honor.



Marshall Martin presents the ICIA Crops and Soils Merit Award to Dr. Katy Martin-Rainey at the 2025 Corn Belt Seed & Grain Conference

Dr. Katy Martin-Rainey's achievements make her highly deserving of the Indiana Crop Improvement Association's Crops and Soils Merit Award. A professor of soybean breeding and genetics in Purdue University's Department of Agronomy, she is a leading researcher and entrepreneur in digital approaches to crop improvement. Dr. Rainey has published over 60 peer-reviewed articles, holds two patents, secured more than \$6 million in research funding, and founded a drone-technology startup to advance soybean breeding. She has taught multiple plant-breeding courses, directed the Purdue Soybean Center since 2018, and testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee in support of land-grant research.

Katy is active in national and international professional organizations and serves on the USDA Genetic Resources Advisory Committee.

We congratulate Katy on her outstanding achievements and as a recipient of this prestigious award.

Distinguished *Service Award*

A respected industry leader, mentor, and advocate, with a career spanning nearly five decades of advancing agriculture, Tim Johnson was recently honored with ICIA's Distinguished Service Award for his exemplary service to the ag industry.

Tim has held influential leadership roles with the American Seed Trade Association, the International Seed Federation—serving as President—as well as numerous national and international boards. He has also been deeply supportive of the Indiana Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) serving as President, and on ICIA's Executive and Award Committees. He also chaired the Corn Belt Conference planning committee and received the ICIA Crops and Soils Merit Award in 2009.



Tim Johnson

Tim's contributions to policy development, intellectual property rights, and global seed systems have created a lasting global impact. His professional achievements are matched by his dedication to family, faith, and community, exemplifying a legacy of service that continues to shape the future of the seed industry.

Join the industry in congratulating Tim Johnson on his many achievements, and as the 2025 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.