



New Season, Same Commitment

Craig Nelson, ICIA CEO

As spring approaches and planters begin to roll, I'm reminded how much optimism—and how many critical decisions—arrive with the start of a new season.



For many of our members who are seed producers, success this time of year depends on confidence in their seed quality from the earliest steps all the way through delivery to farmers. That is where ICIA is built to support you: through a seed certification system designed to ensure genetic purity and identity, paired with professional, unbiased field inspections, laboratory test results, and a robust quality assurance program designed to help protect the value of your product in the marketplace. Whether it's field certifications, germination testing, genetic assays, or inspections tied to your production and delivery timelines, our team is committed to providing accurate results and dependable service when the season demands urgency and precision. Have a safe and productive planting season.

MEMBER
FOCUS



AGVENTURE®

AgVenture recently gathered at ICIA headquarters for its annual winter meeting, bringing together team members from across the region to prepare for the season ahead.

The event provided an opportunity to align strategic goals, share insights, and strengthen the collaboration that drives AgVenture's continued success in delivering high-quality seed solutions to growers. Throughout the meeting, attendees engaged in productive discussions, training sessions, and forward-looking planning, all within the welcoming environment of ICIA's facility. We are proud to host such a dedicated and innovative group, and to provide support in their mission as they gear up for another impactful year in agriculture.

We welcome all ICIA members to bring your team together for a day of educational training and networking. For information on our facilities, contact us at icia@indianacrop.org.

SAVE the DATE
November 11-12

Corn Belt
Seed & Grain Conference



2026

Mark your calendar and plan to be a part of the Corn Belt Seed & Grain Conference where education, innovation, and industry leadership come together! Network with top minds and discover the transformation of ag from the ground up! Further information coming soon to your inbox.

- ✓ Innovation in Seed & Grain Production
- ✓ Leadership in Agriculture
- ✓ Sales & Marketing Strategies
- ✓ Attendee Registration Discounts



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Welcome to that “in like a lion and out like a lamb” month that makes us eagerly look out the windows and draw up elaborate plans about the fun things we’ll accomplish as soon as the weather breaks. In February, the board of directors held a meeting at ICIA with certain large plans in mind. The association has been working hard to increase its member base and bring a higher volume of testing into the lab. The genetics lab testing volume increased 11% from 2023 to 2024 and then another 12% in 2025! The seed lab increased its testing volume 18% from 2023 to 2024, and then increased another 17% in 2025! The ICIA board applauds the growth. This growth trend is fantastic for ICIA, but it comes with challenges.



Bill Stump, President
ICIA Board of Directors

Two challenges that affect the association up front are labor and space. The board has given Craig authorization to reward, hire, and promote talented labor to continue delivering the quality ICIA is known for. The board also approved a capital plan of just over \$300K to make some necessary changes to allow for this growth. The plans include adding fume hoods, eye washing stations, and strategically placed walls to improve the safety and working conditions of the dedicated staff. The association is also investing in lab equipment like microscopes that will allow high-resolution pictures to be taken as the technicians are evaluating seed. The largest expense in the approved plan includes reconfiguring room layouts and wall locations to allow for a 1,000+ square foot expansion of the small-seed lab. Changes to the layout will make for a more efficient workflow through the facility and allow extra space for a growing team. An added challenge is that the team needs to continue cranking out the accurate testing and quick turnaround that they’re known for while they tear down walls, move utilities, and prepare for the growth ahead.

The ICIA board wishes them well as they embark on this adventure of renovation and growth.

ICIA HIGHLIGHTS



Each Christmas, the ICIA team shares joy and holiday cheer in sponsoring a local family in our community.



Pi π Day Celebration at ICIA!

Mark your Calendar

June 5-11

AOSA/SCST - Rochester, NY

June 9-12

ASTA Leadership Summit - Milwaukee, WI

June 15-18

AOSCA Annual Meeting - Golden, CO

November 11-12

Corn Belt Seed & Grain Conference - Carmel, IN

November 16-20

WSA Conference - Kansas City

DID YOU KNOW?

A single farmer today can produce enough food to feed over 150 people for an entire year. Modern equipment, improved seeds, and smarter farming techniques help farmers grow more food on the same amount of land than ever before.



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