

2019 MN Kernza® Farmer and Researcher Meeting

Summary of Narrative Evaluation Questions

This document lists the narrative responses to the post-meeting evaluation.

Note that there were only nine people who filled out evaluations, so it is a limited representation of those who were in the audience.

Who else (people or groups) should be invited to future meetings?

- More growers and others with first hand experience
- Legislators, municipal water planners, Corn/Soybean Growers Associations, grain processors
- Perhaps more grass seed industry people to explore how to adjust these systems for Kernza?
- More end users
- Local Mills
- Seed conditioners, end users (those developing, marketing & selling Kernza in both traditional and organic products), State level NRCS Personnel and someone with crop insurance expertise of minor crops.
- I thought the group was appropriate.

What else should be prioritized in future agronomic research? (Refer to summary of research priorities sent in the email.)

- There's already so much on there! I think PRIORITIES would include: establishment and harvesting procedures.
- Straw biomass potassium content/usage in dairy cow rations
- Different methods for terminating Kernza when part of rotations, in order to maximize effectiveness and minimize disturbance.
- Creating a coop to protect the market.
- The organic and traditional are two different, but important potential markets for Kernza. Would suggest two different research programs for organic and traditional. The primary objective of the traditional program is to seek the top end production of Kernza with commercial inputs (traditional fertilizers, crop protection products, plant growth regulators, fungicides...). This traditional production, in the beginning, would be reserved for small plot research and the Kernza grown with the understanding the crop would be destroyed, so the seed will not get into commercial channels.
- Very complete.

What additional questions do you have?

- Understandably pricing varies, however pricing models and a history of where pricing was at is needed to estimate what revenue would be and how to use the data on production as to how to manage the crop.

Please share any final thoughts on what went well, what could be improved, and what we can do in the future.

- An opportunity to provide feedback to the licensing/registration plan before it is implemented is critical.
- My low marks on breeding were because I was not able to stay for that portion of the meeting.
- I would suggest a gathering in conjunction with a summer field day if in fact we are ready for wider distribution of seed for Fall 2019 distribution. I would also suggest that we more seriously begin to design a wholesale marketing system to better maintain quality especially in these early breeding development stages. Test weight, moisture, FM and other scales of value or discount standards and market value will need to be a part of this marketing structure and I think should be in place before wider distribution of seed takes place.
- This meeting gave a very good overview of the Kernza project. In the future, if possible, have a solid pricing structure for organic and traditional production of Kernza. A clear marketing direction would be helpful for farmers that want to consider adding Kernza to their cropping rotation.
- Thanks for organizing!
- Thank you! Keep moving forward.