

# KANSAS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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## Kansas Crop Improvement Association Promotes Eric Fabrizius to Executive Director

Eric Fabrizius has accepted the position of Executive Director after eight months as the Interim Executive Director and Director of Operations for Kansas Crop Improvement Association (KCIA). This promotion was approved by the board of directors during their meeting on November 12, 2024. Fabrizius replaces Steve Schuler, who retired March 2024.

The board conducted a demanding search through an open application process, but Eric Fabrizius could count on the two prior executive directors as his references. Fabrizius began working at KCIA in August 2000, but the story actually began a little earlier, with a part-time job as a student analyst in the KCIA seed lab during undergraduate studies at Kansas State University. After completing his M.S. in Agronomy with the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY, Fabrizius returned to Kansas as KCIA Seed Laboratory Manager. When Schuler became Executive Director in February 2010, it was with Fabrizius as the Associate Director in addition to his title and duties as Seed Quality Lab Manager.

Under Fabrizius's leadership, the seed laboratory has grown steadily, increasing the number of samples tested, from 3000 to over 5000 every year and expanding the range of tests offered to include several trait tests and dozens of crop species including hemp. The seed lab services are provided for members, government agencies, and the farming public. Fabrizius created a unique data management program for the seed laboratory and has continued into offering emailed and digital reports. Schuler planted the seeds to modernize more association reporting and tracking services, and Fabrizius is now guiding development of a new field application and mapping program for the members to use in their online dashboard.

The KCIA board of directors retained the services of Roots and Legacies Consulting, Inc. of Manhattan, KS to guide their nationwide search for the next executive director. After careful consideration of the association's future direction, the board is pleased to announce the selection of Eric Fabrizius. Mr. Fabrizius, with his many years of service and extensive knowledge of laboratory management, seed law, and certification standards, is well-equipped to guide the association in its next phase of development.

### About Kansas Crop Improvement Association

Kansas Crop Improvement Association, a 501(c)(5) nonprofit corporation, is the official seed and plant-part certifying agency in Kansas. It is a membership-based association that creates the opportunity to participate in integrity-based quality assurance programs that provide superior seed and plant products. In addition to seed certification services, KCIA offers networking and educational opportunities, auditing, farm/field inspection, and laboratory testing services for the seed industry and other crop production related businesses.