



## *Field Day Invitation Sept. 13th, 2018*

At the Mandaamin Institute we have been breeding high yielding corn varieties that are nutrient dense, nitrogen efficient (fixing) and perform well in low-input organic farms. We are also adding cross incompatibility traits that limit contamination from genetically engineered corn pollen.

The higher nutritional value of the corn (approx. 30% more methionine, 16% more protein) enables this corn to reduce the need for soybean meal and synthetic methionine in rations for poultry, giving the corn an added value of up to \$1.37 more per bushel.

We believe some of our varieties can fix part of their nitrogen needs from the air with the help of bacteria. The nitrogen efficiency of our hybrids was apparent in yield trials on local organic farms. This is especially interesting for farmers who have limited access to livestock manure.

In the past we sponsored annual field days for farmers and business people. We showed our test plots, described our work, and got feedback on forming a quality crop research association. With help from Steve Mohr (Foundation Organic Seed) and organic farmer John Pounder we recently produced hybrid seed of our best testing, high methionine hybrids.

This year, we are testing these and other hybrids together with organic farmers in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, and researchers at the University of Illinois. This is part of a larger-scope project called Corn and Soil Health (CASH) that is organizing a network of farmers, agronomists, private and public corn breeders to provide relevant information to members. Research is on hybrids, soil health, corn quality, and identification of potential markets. Some farmers participate by doing strip trials, and others are participating in an educational network.

I would like to invite you to a field day on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> (8:30 to 11:30 AM) on Long Winter Farm in East Troy, Wisconsin, farmed by Graham Adsit and his colleagues. There we will show you the strip trial planted by Graham, and other yield trials. We will discuss our research with SARE grant funding and USDA on hybrids, nutritional quality, and nitrogen uptake. And we will introduce the CASH network. A special listening session afterwards will get your input on what kind of organic seed you need. This event will be combined with lunch at noon and viewing a small hybrid production field on the Rohrer Enterprises farm located in East Troy.

Everyone is welcome. We will meet at 8265 N County Road N, East Troy, WI, right behind the Landmark Co. The noon lunch and listening session will be held on Jim Rohrer's farm, W3019 County Road ES, East Troy, WI. Please let us know in advance if you intend to come and whether you will join us for lunch. Write us at the Mandaamin Institute, or contact Virginia Thomas at Mandaamin Institute (262-248-1533; [virginia.mandaamin@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.mandaamin@gmail.com)) or Carmen Ugarte at the University of Illinois (217-300-5293; [cugarte@illinois.edu](mailto:cugarte@illinois.edu)).

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