

*Notes & Quotes*  
*Montana Seed Growers Association*

Fourth Quarter  
December 2008

*Happy Holidays from MSGA*

The staff at the Montana Seed Growers Association would like to take this opportunity to say a special "thank you" to our growers, contractors, conditioning plants, handling facilities, county agents, and associates for their participation and cooperation this past year; and extend warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a New Year of health, happiness and prosperity.



*Ron Larson, Tamara Vook, Heather Rimel, Bill Grey (Foundation Seed)*

*Your new district representative is...*

The final votes are in for District 2 and District 3 elections. Congratulations to Lloyd Harris of Bozeman who has been elected to District 2, and John Wold of Laurel who has been elected to District 3! Both directors have been elected to 3 year terms. Thank you to all producers in these areas who took the time to cast their vote. This year the Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Bozeman on February 23-24. Please contact your district representative or the MSGA office if you have subjects or issues you would like brought up at the meeting. Contact information can be found at [www.ag.montana.edu/msga](http://www.ag.montana.edu/msga).



**MSGA Board of Directors:**

John Grass—President  
Bear Whitmer—Vice Pres.  
John Wold  
Lloyd Harris  
Patrick Lake  
Jim Kulish  
John Sherwood (ex-officio)

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## A Note from the Manager....

This year, MSGA , along with the Montana Department of Agriculture is sponsoring two seed conditioner clinics during the fall and winter months as a method of maintaining overall Montana seed quality. We expect that each certified conditioning plant and handling facility will send at least one representative to one of the clinics. Our first clinic was presented in Williston, ND, Williston Airport International Inn, co-sponsored by the North Dakota State Seed Department. The first clinic has already been offered in Williston, November 18 - 19, 2008. About 100 people attended, and the exit questionnaire indicated people were very satisfied with the program. Topics included: 1) Principles of seed separation; 2) Airscreen cleaners; 3) Length grading; 4) Gravity Tables; 5) Department of Ag presentation on regulatory requirements along with MSGA certification discussion; 6) Legal Issues and the seedsman; 7) Plant Variety protection and seedsman; 8) Seed diseases and seed treatments; and 9) Seed storage and stored grain insect treatments.

Our final program will be held in Great Falls, MT, January 20-21, 2009 at the Montana ExpoPark Family Living Center. Pre-registration forms have been sent out and the deadline for pre-registration (\$45 per person) is December 31 or later with a late fee attached. You may call for room reservations at the Best Western Heritage Inn, available until January 6. The actual program begins with registration at 12:30 pm and program at 1 pm. We will have a number of highly qualified industry speakers who will be providing information pertinent to your business. Information similar to the Williston program will be presented. We will offer Commercial Chemical Applicator points for the program, and possibly Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Credits if there is enough interest. The program should end about 3 pm on Wednesday, January 21.

This program is geared to Conditioning Plant and Handling Facility operators, as well as those who may be anticipating being involved with the process. I would like to acknowledge the help of Cascade County Extension Agent Wade Crouch in securing a meeting place early on. Feel free to call the MSGA office with any questions you may have on this program.



## Production Fees

Just a friendly reminder that the first round of invoices for production fees has been sent. Fees for the 2008 cropping year must be received by April 15, 2009. Fees are due on all crops that

passed the field inspection even if they do not pass final lab analysis or are not carried through certification beyond field inspection. Individual growers may not receive an in-

voice for crops grown under contract. If the contractor does not pay grower's production fees please forward the invoice on to your growers. Many thanks.

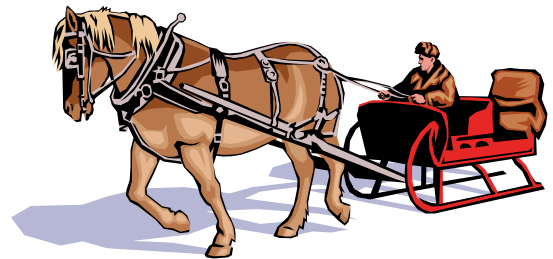


## *When in Doubt, Keep it Pure and Simple.....*

I can't take credit for the column headline nor divulge the source but our editor is wise beyond her young years. A lot of effort is riding on the certified label and it boils down to 'keeping it simple'. All of us, and I include those working with breeders seed for foundation production, are dependent upon the seed provider's stringent adherence to seed certification and laws. It then becomes our responsibility to produce our seed under these accepted rules of certification, which will then become a source pure seed for the next expansion or end use. Anything other than pure seed production and sales, or some new twist on a proven system, just must be too good to be true. A new twist on keeping it simple comes to mind as growers are blending varieties to combat the sawfly. Have you heard of mixing Genou and Yellowstone among the coffee shop talk? It goes something like this; sow a seed mixture that contains the hollow stem, high yielding 'Yellowstone' with the solid stem 'Genou'. Justification for the mixture rolls along the line that a solid stem will remain standing and physically support the hollow stems that were cut by the sawfly. Presumably this will address all those headaches of slow harvest, rocks in the header, and scrapping soil to pick up the cut heads. I don't have the answer to the value of seed mixtures to combat sawfly damage and it may just be a trial that folks are willing to conduct on their own farms. However, it is against the law to sell a small grain mixture of PVP varieties or a mixture that contains just one PVP variety amongst others. Please don't take the idea that if growers mix seed for their use on their farm that it follows that it is OK to sell a seed mixture involving a PVP variety. We just were informed that the MT Dept of Ag Seed Program settled a civil penalty seed case involving the illegal sale of 'Yellowstone' PVP title V in a blended mixture with 'Promontory', in addition to a lack of a seed dealer license, and also the seed was misbranded, the maximum fines were levied. Keep it simple, keep it pure and when in doubt ask for help from the Variety Owner, MSU Foundation Seed Program, MT Seed Growers Assoc. and/or the MT Dept of Ag Seed Program.

Have a wonderful holiday season,

Bill Grey



## *From the Seed Lab...*

*Wishing you all Happy Holidays from the Montana State Seed Testing Laboratory. Thank you for all of your continued support over this past year.*

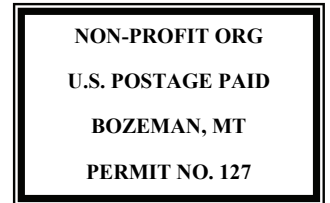
*Carli Lofing, Bridget Westfall, Lucy Cooke, Kim Prosek, and John Jerry*

Montana Seed Growers Association

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"Look for the tag on the bag"



## Mark Your Calendars...

- December 25-26: Closed for Christmas
- January 1-2: Closed for New Year
- January 6-8: Crop Pest Management School—Bozeman
- January 15-17: MAGIE Trade Show — Great Falls
- January 19: MSGA Office Closed
- January 20-21: Montana Seed Conditioner's Clinic—Great Falls
- January 26-28: MAES Planning Meetings—Bozeman
- January 30-Feb 1: MABA—Great Falls
- February 19-21: MATE Show—Billings
- February 23-24: MSGA Board of Directors Meeting—Bozeman

