

December 2009

# Notes & Quotes

Montana Seed Growers Association



## *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.*

### Board of Directors

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

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

Please make sure that all your bulk certificates for the season are turned in! We will be doing audits of the files over the next several months. Thank you.

### **Votes are in for District 1 & 5 Elections for the Board of Directors.....**

The final votes are in for District 1 and District 5 elections. Congratulations to Patrick Lake of Ronan who has been re-elected from District 1, and Bob Hodgskiss of Choteau who has been elected from District 5! Both directors have been elected to 3 year terms. The MSGA would like to thank Former President of MSGA, John Grass (of district 5) for his hard work and service to the board and the association these past three years. His term will end December 31, 2009. 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 22-23. 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).

## Muddled musings from an old Seed Certification Manager... Ron Larson

Amazingly, it is time to construe some more thoughts for a newsletter. As I have counted, this is Christmas letter number 20 that this manager has been involved with since being hired. As always, we are hoping that the information supplied will be useful to the program and to each grower and contractor as they endeavor to partake of the value-added benefits of certified seed (and we really hope people will take time to read it).

To begin, I would like to review some information about labeling, and specifically, labeling of bulk clean seed. Let me start with the legal aspects of proper labeling (hopefully to minimize the possibility of thinking that Larson is simply on a power trip). The Montana State Seed Law states that all seed whether in bulk or bag must be labeled with the appropriate lot number, purity and germination information. This information is also required by the Federal Seed Act. AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies) standards call for specific agency labeling of all certified classes of seed sold. Since the official agency for this labeling in Montana is MSGA, we provide the numbered stick-on tags designed for that process. So, every lot of bulk seed sold should have one of these tags included with the sale, along with the laboratory analysis information, the certification number and the weight of the lot being sold (This includes every sale, and there should be no exceptions). Seed that is sold without this information would in most cases be considered non-certified in a court of law, thereby creating another liability problem if the seed is Plant Variety Protected (PVP). It should be noted that there could be a few of the old style 3 part paper certificates in the works yet, but we are moving toward the new style with any seed dealer who sells more than a few lots of seed annually.

If a lot of seed is offered by a seed dealer on a wholesale basis, the "For Resale" square is to be designated on the label. The final retail sales resulting from this sale should indicate they are "Not For Resale", and as such, a separate Bulk Certificate should be offered with each final sale.

When we receive our e-mailed reports on Bulk Certificates used in the office they should provide the complete sales path of any lot of seed sold. This then completes the "Bulk Labeling" process. It sounds simple and we hope you find it so.



### Production Fees

Just a friendly reminder that the first round of invoices for production fees has been sent. Fees for the 2009 cropping year must be received by April 15, 2010.

**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 invoice 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.

## Montana Foundation Seed Program .....Bill Grey

Thank you for supporting the foundation seed program in 2009. Your purchase of a bushel of foundation seed helps the busy elves at our research centers producing pure seed of these varieties. Your research fees have been used to support the MSU breeding programs and towards new varieties that can bring joy to us all. Over the years, research fees have amounted to \$83K for Luther Talbert in spring wheat, \$47K to Phil Bruckner in winter wheat, and towards a sleigh shed at the Post Farm \$20K and the promotion of certified seed by the Farmers Yield Initiative \$6K.

News worthy headline: Hockett barley is poised to becoming a major malt variety in MT. When compared to Harrington on dryland production, Hockett has an increased yield of 4 bu, heavier test weight of 1 to 1.5lb, and a greater proportion of plump kernels by 7%. Hockett has passed all AMBA requirements and performed well in the malt and brewery trials conducted by BuschAg and Miller. Hockett is in the process of receiving a PVP license and can only be sold as a class of certified seed. A research fee of \$0.50 per bushel of seed sold will be due to MSU.

Seed Health note: I have noticed fungal surface contaminants in the wheat and pea seed lots, most likely due to delayed harvest with the rain and snow in 2009. The culprits are the fungi that cause Black Point of wheat, Red Smudge of durum and Ascochyta of pea. These fungi can be seed borne but typically they survive on the infected leaf tissues that are scattered among the plant residues on the soil surface and between crops. The fungal spores are spread during rainy, wet conditions from the seed or surface residue to the new seedling, develop as leaf spots on foliage in wet weather and spread to the developing seed, eventually invading the seed coat or the embryo. There greatest damage is reduced seed viability and in reduced seedling vigor and poor emergence. Seed tests on germination and disease percentage are important in making the decision to abandon heavily infected seed lots. But it is tough to know what to do with those seed lots that have a low incidence, say less than 1%. Even a low incidence of seed borne fungi, given a wet season during seedling emergence can lead to a foliar outbreak of the disease. The best insurance with certified seed that may have a low incidence of the seed borne fungi, is to prescribe an approved fungicide seed treatment, then monitor closely for seed emergence and thoroughly scout the crop for symptoms of disease, in the event that a foliar fungicide may be required.

To a Safe and Happy Holiday

Bill Grey

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“Hockett barley is poised to becoming a major malt variety in Montana.”

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## TOLERANCES ON A SEED LABEL by Brent Sarchet

Every now and then I receive calls from people who have questions about seeds and seed labels. Most questions are pretty straight forward and can be answered easily, but others make you think. A recent question I received was, does the seed label have to be 100 percent accurate? While the quick answer would be yes and no, the most accurate answer is that it depends. The reason why it depends is that the information provided on a label must accurately represent the seed lot. However, there are tolerances in which the information on the label may fall within and not be considered inaccurate.

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**"A recent question I received was, does the seed label have to be 100 percent accurate?"**

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The Federal Seed Act 201.59 through 201.66 describes the tolerances. The tolerance for purity is calculated by taking the percent purity indicated on the label, "first analysis" and averaging it with the purity results from a "second analysis". In most circumstances, the "second analysis" will be that of the state seed control official or a perspective buyer. After the average is determined, the difference or deficiency between the "first analysis" and the "second analysis" is calculated. Using the purity tolerance table in the Federal Seed Act one can determine if the difference or deficiency between the two purities is within the tolerances or not. As an example, one of the department's inspectors samples some Indian Rice-grass, which is considered chaffy when not hulled. The label on the Indian Rice-grass shows 88 percent purity. The analysis done on the sample taken from the inspector indicates 85.5 percent purity. The average between the two is 86.75 percent and the deficiency is 2.5. Using the table in the Federal Seed Act, the tolerance for deficiency is 2.36, so the label would be out of tolerance and would have to be changed.

The germination tolerances are determined using the table below (sum of the germination plus the hard seed when 400 or more seeds are tested).

Average Germination Percentage	Tolerance
96 or over	5
90 or over but less than 96	6
80 or over but less than 90	7
70 or over but less than 80	8
60 or over but less than 70	9
Less than 60	10

If you would like a copy of the tolerances from the Federal Seed Act, call me at (406) 444-3950 or email me at [bsarchet@mt.gov](mailto:bsarchet@mt.gov).

## Happy Holidays from the Seed Lab!



*Lucy Cooke, Bridget Westfall, Carli Lofing*

\*The lab will be closed December 24-25, 2009 and January 1, 2010.

\*We are conducting BSMV tests again in February and March.

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Please contact the Seed Lab with any questions or if we can be of service to you this season.

(406) 994-7372  
 clofing@montana.edu

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## Thank you for your continuing support!

### Testing for Ascochyta.... Mary Burrows

Get your pulse crop seed samples in now for Ascochyta testing. Montana State University's Seed Laboratory and the Schutter Plant Disease Diagnostic clinic test dry peas, lentils, and chickpea for purity, germination and seed borne Ascochyta blight. Ascochyta blight is a serious disease of chickpeas, lentils, and sometimes dry pea. It can cause up to 100% yield loss. We recommend a zero tolerance for Ascochyta in chickpea because of the high level of seed transmission for this particular crop. Tolerances in dry pea and lentil are higher. We also recommend using a seed treatment that contains thiabendazole (LSP, Mertect) at planting. Check labels for registration and dose.

We are seeing very high levels of ascochyta in all pulse crops tested so far this year. Please get your samples in now to avoid a bottleneck in testing at the lab. The test takes 10 days. Contact the MSU Seed Laboratory at (406) 994-2141 for submission instructions and the amount of seed to submit. There is an additional fee for ascochyta testing. More on Pulse crop diseases can be found at the High Plains IPM website at [http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Pulse\\_Crops](http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Pulse_Crops).



### SeCan Royalty Fees

Royalty fees for SeCan varieties sold between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 will be due September 1, 2010. The fee is 44 cents per bushel sold for Harrington barley and 77 cents per bushel for AC Metcalfe barley (for AC Metcalfe, fees are also due on seed a grower keeps and plants on his own land) . If you have Harrington or AC Metcalfe seed from an earlier year which was sold for planting in the spring of 2010, the same rates apply and will be due to MSGA.



Montana Seed Growers Association

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**"Look for the Tag on the Bag"**

[www.ag.montana.edu/msga](http://www.ag.montana.edu/msga)

## Dates to Remember



December 24-25: Closed for Christmas

January 1st: Closed for New Year

January 5-7: Crop Pest Management School (Pulse & Forage Crops) - Bozeman

Phone: (406) 994-5663

Email: [kwanner@montana.edu](mailto:kwanner@montana.edu)

January 21-23: MAGIE Trade Show—Great Falls

January 26-28: MABA/MGEA Joint Convention—Great Falls

February 18-20: MATE Show—Billings (Look for the MSGA Booth)

February 22-23: Board of Directors Meeting— Bozeman