



Notes & Quotes

Montana Seed Growers
Association

December 2010



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 all of 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, Bernie Schaff (Post Farm), Heather Rimel and Bill Grey (Foundation Seedstocks)

New Board Members

The final votes are in for District 4 and District 6 elections. Congratulations to Steve Grove from Moccasin who has been elected to District 4 and Charlie Cahill from Scobey who has been elected to District 6. Both directors have been elected to serve 3 year terms. The MSGA would like to say a special thank you to Jim Kulish and Bear Whitmer for their years of hard work service to the Board and the Association. Thank you to all the 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/msga.

Board of Directors

Bob Hodgskiss-President

Pat Lake-Vice President

John Wold

Charlie Cahill

Steve Grove

Lloyd Harris

John Sherwood (ex-officio)

Staff

Ron Larson-Manager

(406) 994-5121

rlarson@montana.edu

Heather Rimel-Program
Coordinator

(406) 994-7372

hrimel@montana.edu

Tawyna Morgan-Program
Assistant

(406) 994-3516

tmorgan@montana.edu

Please take a few moments to fill out a survey brought to you by Montana Foundation Seedstocks, and let them know how they can better serve you.

[http://
www.surveymonkey.com
/s/MFSP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MFSP)



A Note from the Manager.... Ron Larson

This seems to be a good time to express appreciation for the privilege of serving you in the seed industry as we seek to administer the Seed Certification Program for Montana. In general, Montana produced seed under the MSGA program has a good reputation within the state as well as in surrounding states, and that speaks volumes about the quality consciousness of our seed producers and processors.

I wanted to point out a legislative bill that we are seeking to move forward in the 2011 State Legislature regarding State Seed Lab funding and management. In an effort to put the State Seed Lab in a better financial position to fulfill its responsibilities and obligations to the seed industry of Montana, this bill (currently LC 583) is an attempt to move the fee setting responsibilities to an independent advisory board made up of seed industry representatives as well as the Department of Agriculture and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. This bill also seeks to allow increased input and oversight from the seed industry on lab operations, allowing the Director of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station ultimate authority.

Three individuals who deserve great credit for this “grass-roots” work on the legislation are Bob Hodgskiss, Jim Kulish, and Mike DeVries. They are championing the writing of this bill and have been in contact with all the related seed and grain industry groups to verify their support for this bill. We appreciate these people and their efforts as the bill begins to move from draft form to the legislative process. Thanks, guys, for all your hard work on behalf of the State Seed Lab, MAES and the Montana Seed Industry.

For those who are interested in the Glyphosate Tolerant (GT) Alfalfa Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), I understand that it may be ready for release by USDA to the public around the first part of January. I have heard that it is somewhere around 2100 pages in length. At the December 20 USDA Forum on Alfalfa Production Co-existence chaired by Agriculture Secretary Vilsack in Washington, D.C., 3 choices were presented as being considered by the USDA regarding the future of GT Alfalfa after the release of the EIS: 1) let it remain regulated -as it is currently; 2) deregulate so it would be handled as before 2007; or 3) partial deregulation with conditions, perhaps setting up growing zones in the US (for example, some states could produce GT alfalfa and others would be restricted from GT production. A synopsis of this meeting and other related information is available at the USDA APHIS website.

One additional item worth noting revolves around adjustments in the status of the MSGA cooperative agreement with SeCan, regarding fee collection on Canadian seed varieties like Harrington and AC Metcalfe barley. We are in the process of renegotiating the agreement at this point. I think it could be useful to Montana producers if SeCan’s Canadian seed varieties can continue to be procured through this agreement, without the seed requestor or producer needing to purchase a SeCan membership.



Please help us welcome our new Program Assistant Tawnya Morgan! Tawnya has started work as of December 22nd. She graduated from MSU with a bachelors degree in Animal Science (feed/health option). Since then she has worked many jobs in the cattle and seed industry, one of them being with the Montana State Seed Lab as a seed analyst. For the past 7 years she has helped run her family business but looks forward to being back in this industry.

Happy Holidays from the MFSP.....Bill Grey, December 2010

2010 was a big year for MSU with the approval of Hockett as a malt variety, the inaugural sales of foundation seed from MFSP and the proven performance as a dryland malt barley. MSU spring varieties were steady in demand across the state, including the Vida, Choteau and the hay barleys, Lavina, Hays, and Haybet. I was pleased that we were able to provide foundation seed of the tried and true varieties, Fortuna and Rampart. There is great potential for Decade in the winter challenged environments, which as a variety also has a bump in protein for good measure. Sawfly tolerance and improved yield with cereal quality are the goal for upcoming releases from the spring and winter wheat breeding programs. Genou and Choteau have set the bar high and will be cleared by these new releases, so keep tuned for more info in the New Year, 2011.

I am asking for your help once again with completing an on-line questionnaire of the Montana Foundation Seedstocks Program. Please take a few minutes during the holidays or at the start of the new year, to give us your opinion on how the foundation program is serving your needs and what we can do with improvements. Copy and paste the following link into your internet browser;

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MFSP> "Montana Foundation Seedstocks Program Survey"

Visit the Montana Foundation web page for updates on variety performance. A new web page is in the design phase that we hope we will be easier to navigate and quicker to access the information on seed ordering and variety performance.

Have a good holiday and thank you for your support of the MFSP.

Happy Holidays from the Montana State Seed Testing Laboratory!



Jessie Scott, Lucy Cooke, Courtney Speagle and Bridget Westfall (not pictured)

Montana Seed Growers Association

MSU - Marsh Laboratory
P.O. Box 173146
Bozeman, MT 59717-3146
Phone: (406) 994-7372
Fax: (406) 994-1725

"Look for the Tag on the Bag"



Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BOZEMAN, MT
PERMIT NO. 127

Upcoming Dates:

- December 24th—Office closed for Christmas
- December 31st—Office closed for New Year
- January 4-6th—Crop & Pest Management School—Bozeman
- January 20-22nd—Magie Expo—Great Falls
- January 25-27th—MAES Variety Release Committee—Bozeman
- January 26-28th—MABA-MGEA Joint Convention—Great Falls
- February 17-19th—MATE Show—Billings
- February 22-23rd—MSGA Board of Directors Meeting—Bozeman

