Happy Holidays

The staff at the Montana Seed Growers Association would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our growers, contractors, handling facilities, county agents and associates for making this this another successful year; and extend warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a New Year of health, happiness and prosperity to you and your family.

Left to right: Ron Larson, Heather Rimel, Bernie Schaff, Bill Grey, Nancy Cooke

Board of Director Results

The final votes are in for districts 1 and 5. Congratulations to Pat Lake from Ronan and our new board member Kirby Lohr from Shelby. Both directors have been elected to serve three year terms. The MSGA would like to say a special thank you to Bob Hodgskiss for his years of service and dedication to the Board and Association. Thank you to all producers who took the time to cast their vote. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held in February. Please contact your district representative or MSGA office if you have subjects you would like brought up at the meeting.

Board of Directors
Pat Lake-President
John Wold-Vice President
Rod Kitto
Steve Grove
Charlie Cahill
Kirby Lohr
John Sherwood-Ex-officio

Staff
Ron Larson-Manager
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Nancy Cooke-Program Assistant
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Comments from the Manager

This past September marked the 100th anniversary of the Montana Seed Growers Association. In the wisdom of the designers of Montana’s seed certification program, they provided for this remarkable combination of organization both as a private, non-profit association, yet connected to public service through its authorization as the agent for Certification by Montana State University (Montana State College originally) via a memorandum of agreement. A Board of Directors made up of grower members plus an MSU/MAES Administration member (ex officio) has always been part of the structure of the governance of the association, which is also incorporated under Montana Law. One director is elected for a 3 year term from each Experiment Station District. Elections are held in 2 districts each year so the terms of directors are staggered. Any grower is eligible to be a director, so long as they have produced a class of certified seed in each of the immediate past 3 years. Any producer is eligible to vote who has applied for certification in the current year of the election.

Having just finished another MSGA election cycle, this may be a good time to talk about the value of this board to Montana’s seed industry. Certification, with its minimum standards of purity and viability, has been a time tested and proven method of verifying seed quality and performance. Indeed, the acreage in the program grew by about 30% over the previous year, signifying continued confidence in the process. The MSGA Board of Directors has jurisdiction over this agency, including the overall direction of the MSGA Office, housed on the Montana State University Campus. This representative group of growers provides an important service on a volunteer basis for the seed industry as it deals with current oversight as well as potential changes to policy or standards in response to advances in seed technology, varietal development and seed industry needs. For my part as manager, I would like to extend a word of thanks and appreciation to all the present and past MSGA board members who have made contributions to the continuation of the concept of independent 3rd party inspection and verification as provided by the Montana Seed Growers Association. We look forward to many more years of service to the industry.

The next MSGA Board meeting is scheduled for February 26 and 27, 2013. If there are specific concerns that should be brought before the Board, please let us know here at the MSGA Office, or contact the Board member in your district.

Historical trivia: In the year 1933, according to MSGA history, certified alfalfa seed acreage was the largest recorded by the agency in Montana, 44,260 acres, with 676 participating producers. However, the highest number of certified alfalfa seed producers, 684, was reported 2 years earlier, in 1931.
Foundation Seed Update

Season Greetings. After all the dust and chaff settles and there has been time to clear the throat, I don’t want to lose sight of all the folks who bring home the seed. Thanks to the Team Gettel, the foundation program successfully raised a record number of varieties and quantity of seed in Bozeman. Dave Gettel in his inaugural season was a magical farm manager and teaming with his son, Rudie, they brought in the seed. Jake Heen is a master juggler of equipment to access the fields on our off-station farms, and he was able to keep his good nature while herding the seed aggies. A big thanks, to Eric Olson, who has rogued many miles, banged his knuckles on cleaning equipment for the last two years and nice enough to hide his laughter at this old manager’s goofs. Eric spent a summer with the agronomy crew under Peggy Lamb at MSU Northern and we stole him while he is a student at MSU. We also have a familiar face to those of you on the Highline, with Tom Allen bringing his cereal expertise to the foundation production at MSU Northern. Out east on the Sidney station, Ron Brown was full throttle on the combine and the cleaning machine as he stuffed the seed storage building with a bounty of Duclair this fall. Wrapping up the circle of seed production, I can’t say enough of the team at the Central Station, where Dave Wichman, Joe Joe Vavrovsky and Lorrie Linhart, have been a foundation hub for years. Coming home to the department, Irene Decker keeps the foundation webpage up to date for seed prices and information on varieties while Tamara Parnell manages the accounts for the Montana Foundation Seed Program.

Foundation seed allocation update

Fall 2012 Bearpaw 120 bu, Judee 370 bu, Willow Creek 162 bu, Yellowstone 396 bu.

I wish all of you a happy holiday.

Bill Grey
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wgrey@montana.edu

http://plantsciences.montana.edu/FoundationSeed/

Bulk Certificates

Please turn in records on all used bulk certificates so we can update our files. Thank you!
Happy Holidays from the Montana State Seed Testing Laboratory

Contact us for all your seed testing needs!  (406) 994-2141

Left to right: Pam Burkenpas, Smith Wells, Bridget Westfall, Katie Kratky, Lucy Cooke, Jeff Wedding.

Not Pictured: Richelle O’Leary, Courtney Speegle, Emby Davich, Judah Davich

Upcoming Dates

- January 2-4: Crop Pest Management School-Bozeman  kwanner@montana.edu
- January 17-19: Magie Trade Show-Great Falls
- January 28: Variety Release Committee Meeting-Bozeman
- January 30-February 1: MABA/MGEA-Great Falls
- February 14-16: MATE Show-Billings
- February 18: Montana Alfalfa Seed Growers Association Meeting-Billings
- February 26-27: MSGA board of Directors Meeting-Bozeman