



NOTES & QUOTES

Montana Seed Growers Association

Winter 2014

Happy Holidays



Bill Grey, Nancy Cooke, Heather Rimel, Ron Larson

Wishing all of our growers, contractors, handling facilities and associates a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for making 2014 another great year. May the New Year be one of health, happiness and prosperity for you and your family.

Happy Holidays!

Board of Director Results

The final votes have been tallied for districts 2 & 3. We had some great candidates however congratulations go to John McDonnell from Three Forks and John Wold from Laurel. Each director has been elected to a three year term. A special thank you to Rod Kitto of Toston for serving District 2 so well over the past three years. MSGA would also like to say thank you to all of the producers who took the time to cast their vote. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held in February. Please contact your representatives if you have any topics you'd like discussed.

Board of Directors

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Charlie Cahill-Vice Pres.
Steve Grove
Kirby Lohr
Pat Lake
John McDonnell

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From the Manager

We at MSGA would sincerely like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to all of you, our customers and clients, for your cooperation in the seed certification process this year. The seed certification program has enjoyed the spirit of trust and cooperation among association producers and contractors as we seek to follow and preserve the seed standards for certifying seed and granting the value-added status that should be expected with certified or “blue-tag” seed. MSGA as an organization is 102 years old this year and hopefully it will continue to serve the industry for many years to come. We hope that the 2014 seed production season proved successful for most of you, in spite to the challenging weather conditions.

1000 Gram Small Grains Purity Requirement Changes

After reviewing ongoing problems with the 1000 gram purity test requirement for small grain seed shipped to Montana from other states (interagency certified classes), the MSGA board voted this past summer to allow use of MSGA bulk seed sale certificates or tags for interagency approved seed entering MT from other states that only use 500 grams for the purity portion of the seed lab test. This became important as the MSGA office found that seed was planted before we could receive the paperwork on the testing process or request any changes. Prior to that time, all seed coming into Montana from another state required re-testing using a 1000 gram purity before the seed could be sold using MSGA Bulk Certificates or tags.

At present, any small grain seed produced in Montana under the MSGA program still requires a 1000 gram purity test according to MSGA policy, if Montana Bulk Certificates or tags are to be used for the seed sale. Small grains imported from Canada still also require a 1000 gram purity test, since Canadian seed does not typically have label information that shows % purity. Some Canadian labs now will do an AOSA type purity and noxious exam on 1000 grams upon request.

It should be noted that all seed sold using MSGA Bulk Certificates or tags must meet Montana Seed Standards, as shown in the MSGA Handbook (available on the MSGA website). If anyone needs a hard copy of this handbook, please call the office and we will send one.

Board of Directors Meeting

The MSGA Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting Tuesday and Wednesday, February 10 and 11, 2015, at the MSGA Office in Bozeman. If you have comments or concerns that you think should be addressed, feel free to call your district board member or the MSGA Office. Board member contact information can be found on the MSGA website. A number of items with regard to the seed standards of various crops have already been brought to our attention for the agenda.





In Memorandum—Bernie Schaff

Bernard (Bernie) Schaff passed away November 10, 2014 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He worked for many years and was very well known at MSU, first as a research assistant in the old Plant & Soil Science Dept., then as the Manager of the Post Agronomy Farm west of Bozeman. Working as the farm manager was something that Bernie loved and considered a dream job. He was instrumental in the production and processing of Foundation Seed purchased by Montana Producers and Seed Dealers on the farm. Bernie retired in 2011. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Susan, his father, Jake, and an infant sister. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, and sons Alan (Chris) and Kevin, along with grandchildren Taylor and Aaron Schaff, Justin Hutman, Haley, and Kyle Schaff, and also his step-son Len (Charlotte). Also surviving are 3 brothers, Walter (Marylin), Tim (Debbie) and Gary (Mary), as well as 3 sisters, Theresa (Reno) Rodeghiero, Bev (Ed) Fryer and Joan (Loyd) Allen. Bernie will certainly be missed around the MSU agricultural community.



Seed Lab to Offer “Clearfield Confirm” Test

The Montana State Seed Lab has been authorized by BASF to begin training to conduct the Clearfield Confirm seed tolerance exam. Analysts will begin training over the next couple of months and hope to be qualified by this spring to offer this test.

Picture: Faye Jorgensen, Becca Burkenpas (student worker), Bridget Westfall



Return Service Requested

Montana Seed Growers Association

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“Look for the tag on the bag!”

The Seed-Point

Seasons Greetings and here's to a new year that brings a bountiful seed harvest with a passing lab analysis. Got a couple of new year resolutions for 2015 that will keep you informed on what's new for MSU varieties and the performance of current varieties.

1. The Variety Release meeting is scheduled for February 17 and 18, 2015. The Santa breeders and elves are busy processing yield and quality data in time for the variety release. A few presents are being mulled over, so it would be wise to look under the web page to see what's new
<http://plantsciences.montana.edu/foundationseed/varietyrelease/2015.html?>
2. Best resolution you could ever make, is to spend time with the variety performance presents that master elves, Jim Berg and Phil Bruckner, have put together for winter wheat varieties. Check out the Small Grain Quick Facts. You can print out the two pages, kick back on the lazy person, and educate yourself during commercial breaks on BBall, football or Futbol,,,,Goallllllllllllll.
<http://plantsciences.montana.edu/foundationseed/quickfacts/>

Here's to a merry holiday with family and friends,

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