

Notes & Quotes



Wishing all of our growers, contractors, handling facilities and association a prosperous New Year. Thank you for making 2017 another great year.

Board Of Director Election Results

The final votes have been tallied for districts 2 & 3. We want to thank everyone who voted and for our great candidates. Congratulations to Cavin Steiger (district 3) from Forsyth, and Bob Hofman (district 2) from Manhattan. Each director will serve a three year term. A special thank you to John Wold for his many years of serving on the board of directors for MSGA.

BOD Meeting

The MSGA Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting Tuesday and Wednesday, February 6th and 7th 2018, at the MSGA office in Bozeman. If you have comments or concerns that you wish to have discussed, feel free to call your district board member or the MSGA office. Board members contact information can be found on the MSGA website.

Board of Directors

Kirby Lohr-President

Pat Lake-Vice Pres.

Steve Grove

John Wold

John McDonnell

Bill Edwards

Mike Giroux-Ex. Officio

Staff

Heather Unverzagt

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Nancy Cooke

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Managers Update

Heather Unverzagt

As the 2018 seed sales season gets underway we here at MSGA would like to take the time to remind our growers and labelers of a few seed issues prior to your spring sales. All carryover seed must be retested for germination before sale. Seed sales in state require the germination to be within one year of testing and out of state the germination must be within six months. There is one new adopted rule change that applies only to grass seed sold for lawn, landscaping, or ornamental purposes in which case the germination is good for up to fifteen months. For those that are interested in the exact language it can be found on the Montana Department of Agriculture website:

4.12.3103 VIABILITY INFORMATION

Seed sold or offered for sale must have current viability information as required by 80-5-134(1)(d), MCA. Seed shall not be sold more than 12 months after the calendar month and year in which the test for the viability information for that seed was completed except grass seed sold for lawn, landscaping, or ornamental purposes may be up to 15 months.

As you gear up for your spring sales now is also a great time to review labeling requirements, specifically on the labeling of bulk clean seed. The Montana State Seed Law and the Federal Seed Act requires that all seed, whether in bulk or a bag, must be labeled with the appropriate lot number, purity, and germination information. The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) standards call for specific labeling of all classes of certified seed sold, and the designated agency for Montana is MSGA. MSGA provides the numbered, stick on bulk certificate tags for this process. **Every** lot of seed sold, after passing seed grade from MSGA, must have one of these tags included with the sale along with laboratory analysis, certification number, and weight of the lot being sold-no exceptions. Seed sold without this information and bulk certificate is in violation of the Federal Seed Act and often creates further liability with Plant Variety Protected (PVP) varieties. Seed lots offered "for resale" must be designated and a new bulk certificate issued for the final sale. If you have questions on PVP varieties or the bulk seed sale process contact the office and we'd be happy to discuss further or provide additional training for your or your facility.

A final reminder that all of those labeling certified seed that is not grown on your own farm must be licensed through the Montana Seed Growers Association. This includes those that are wholesaling and retailing. Additional licensing is required through the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Please take the time to update your bulk certificates and send in the completed forms. Bulk certificates should be returned to MSGA at least twice a year.

Foundation Seed Update

Doug Holen

Happy New Year from MSU's Foundation Seed Program!

Like most, we are transitioning from the 2017 crop season to the anticipation of 2018. The cleaning plant has been actively processing last season's seed and preparing for late winter Foundation seed distribution.

I enjoyed attending the Montana Grain Grower and Montana Seed Trade gatherings recently and appreciate the conversations with the state's agricultural community. Your input on needs, history, and direction for the future of our industry is essential to building a sustainable seed program that addresses common goals. We will be having a Foundation Seed Advisory Committee meeting in January to help shape the directions needed to ensure grower access to the best MSU genetics available. This meeting is followed the same day with the Variety Release Committee meeting, during which future MT variety releases are discussed and acted upon. The MSU winter wheat program will have a couple varieties up for discussion including MT1465 (Yellowstone replacement) and MTF1432 (Willow Creek replacement). While the decision to proceed with these is still to be determined, Breeders seed of both were planted this fall making Foundation seed available fall 2018 if needed.

On a side note, MSU varieties look to continue the pattern of applying for Plant Variety Protection (PVP) with title V designations as stated by our release policy. This follows a common pattern seen regionally and nationally with both public and private companies.

As always, please feel free to call on me anytime at (office) 406-994-5687, (cell) 406-404-5726 or douglas.holen@montana.edu. You can also visit our website <http://plantsciences.montana.edu/Foundationseed/>

Best Wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous 2018.



Montana State Seed Testing Lab Update

Bridget Westfall

Seasonal Greetings Montana Seed Growers!

There is some confusion out there regarding the submission of Pulse samples (chickpea, lentil, and pea samples for pathogen tests). To be clear, all seed is to be submitted to the Montana State Seed Testing Lab regardless of the tests needed. We will take it from there. The Montana State Seed Testing Lab conducts Purity, Germination, Tetrzolium (TZ), BSMV and Seed Identification.

The Regional Pulse Lab conducts a multitude of bacterial, fungal, and viral disease agent tests on pulse crops in packages: Ascochyta-Plus (test for 6 common seed borne fungal pathogens), Smart (includes the test in Ascochyta-Plus package + tests for two viruses [Pea seed borne mosaic virus (PSbMV) and Pea enation mosaic virus (PEMV)], and Comprehensive (Includes tests in Smart package plus bacterial blight disease agents). It also tests for seed borne/seed-contaminated nematodes (stem and bulb and pea cyst nematodes for Indian quarantine).

Once these samples are submitted to the Montana Seed Laboratory, they are entered into the computer system and assigned a lab number. Pulse Lab samples will have a P in their lab number that may or may not coincide with tests submitted to the Seed Lab for purity or germination. An example of these lab numbers would be 18-1222 and 18-P1222 represents a seed lab sample submitted for germination (18-1222) and Aschochyta-Plus (18-P1222). After receiving a lab number the sample is then divided down to the working weights needed to analyze the seed for the tests requested.

Any testing to be done by the Montana Seed Lab is started at this point and done according to AOSA rules.

Pea, Lentil and Chickpea samples submitted for disease testing are delivered to the Pulse Lab where they are quickly processed. When testing is concluded, results are given to the Seed Lab where the Report of Analysis for the Pulse Lab is generated and sent out. The Montana Seed Lab and Regional Pulse Crop test services are billed separately but invoices are mailed together.

Send inquiries to Montana State Seed Lab even on issues regarding pathogen testing. You can also contact Joseph Fenoglio at 406-551-4267 or email Regional Pulse Crop Diagnostic Laboratory at pulsediagnosics@montana.edu The planting season is near. If you have not already sent in your seed samples for testing, do so now to avoid delay in the busy months of February-March, 2018!

Use either of the shipping addresses below:

Montana State Seed Lab
PO Box 173145
Room 40 Marsh Lab
Bozeman, MT 59717-3145
Phone: (406) 994-2141
Fax: (406) 994-3786

Address for UPS and FedEx:
Montana State Seed Testing Lab
1911 West Lincoln Street
Marsh Labs; Room 40
Bozeman, MT 59718



From the Seed Lab