



# Notes & Quotes

Montana Seed Growers  
Association

Second Quarter  
July

## Musings from the Manager by Ron Larson

A number of ideas come to mind as I reflect on this growing season and preparation for field inspections. Since, as of this writing, we don't yet have a total number of acres in the program for this year, suffice it to say that we expect acreage to be somewhat reduced from the record 69,500+ acres we had last year, but should experience at least an average number of acres. So with that introduction, I thought I would zero in on a review of some of the basic requirements for successful seed certification, including producers' preparations for field inspections as well as subsequent equipment management considerations for harvest/storage.

1. Prior to field inspections, producers should assess whether any obvious field problems are cropping up. Are there plants growing between drill rows suggesting volunteer contamination? Are noxious weeds present? Rouging for impurities or contaminants may be required before inspection to ensure that the field meets standards. Swathing out or haying contaminated areas of a field may be a viable option. If seemingly insurmountable problems develop, the field may be cancelled prior to the arrival of the inspector, resulting in a refund of inspection fees.

2. Field Inspections – be sure inspection is done before harvest. There is no going back to fix a field that is harvested before inspection. Contact your field inspector if you have not yet been contacted by any of them, to arrange for inspection times. Re-inspections can be done on fields that are initially rejected. Visit with your inspector or call the office if that needs to be done. (Note: first inspections on perennial crops must occur in the seedling year in order for such fields to be in the program in succeeding years.)

3. Now for the combine issue. We are expecting all growers to clean their combines between seed lots and before starting to combine fields that are in the certification program. Uncleaned machines are a source of all kinds of contamination from other varieties, other crops and weed seed. Cleaning consists of dropping the trap doors out of elevator legs, cleaning out the hopper tank and unloading auger and otherwise blowing down the inside of the machine thoroughly. While I will admit that this takes a fair amount of time, it is well worth the resulting assurance of minimal combine contamination. If you hire custom combiners, insist that they clean their machines in a similar manner before they enter your seed fields. You likely do not want the contaminants they might bring.

4. Clean and inspect truck boxes, augers and grain bins prior to using for seed purposes. All of these can be sources of contamination left unchecked. When you finish storing your crop, properly label bins to avoid confusion when delivering to your conditioner or seed dealer. Mistaken identity can result in significant liability issues later on for both the seed seller and the buyer.

It always seems difficult to find a stopping point when discussing the certification process, but I think I will stop here for now. One final point should be made, and that is to remember the certification number that was assigned to your application (it also appears on your field inspection report). If you have questions on your field or if you are sending a sample for analysis, refer to and/or write that number on all related correspondence or samples to expedite the process. I hope you have a successful crop season. If you have questions feel free to call or e-mail.

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tvook@montana.edu

### A REQUEST:

Please return any completed bulk certificates that you may still possess. We need to stay current in recording these sales and your cooperation is appreciated.

### WINTER WHEAT DIRECTORY:

I plan on having the winter wheat directory online by Wednesday July 29th. Please check our website.

## 2009 Field Inspectors

<b>Bob Bristol</b> (406) 644-3099 (406) 529-3388 Cell	Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders Counties
<b>Bob Nelson</b> (406) 378-2424 (406) 390-2695	Fergus, Judith Basin (Works with Terry Metcalfe)
<b>Brian Bedord</b> (406) 463-2475 (406) 590-9092 Cell	Northern Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Teton Counties
<b>Earl Belcher</b> (406) 648-5549 (406) 600-9860 Cell	Garfield, McCone, Phillips, Valley Counties
<b>Erin Miller</b> (406) 434-5943	Pondera, Glacier, Chouteau, Liberty, Toole Counties
<b>Gary Schaff</b> (406) 488-6149 (406) 489-0522 Cell	Daniels, Dawson, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Wibaux Counties
<b>Hugh Brookie</b> (406) 527-3476	Garfield, McCone, Phillips, Valley Counties (Works with Earl Belcher)
<b>Jim Bott</b> (406) 234-3848 (406) 951-1324 Cell	Carter, Custer, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure, Bighorn, Fallon Counties
<b>John Ranney</b> (406) 656-7795 (406) 656-8066 Office	Small Grains in Yellowstone, Musselshell, and Petroleum Counties
<b>Milt Munson</b> (406) 442-1756 (406)459-8888 Cell	Broadwater, Lower part of Lewis & Clark, Powell Counties
<b>Ole Sherwood</b> (406) 328-6617 (406) 321-0324 Cell	Beans & Alfalfa in Yellowstone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Small Grains in Carbon Counties
<b>Roger Brookie</b> (406) 654-8823 Cell	Hill, Blaine Counties
<b>Ron Larson</b> (406) 994-5124 Office (406) 581-2327 Cell	Beaverhead, Madison, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Granite, Meagher, Wheatland, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Grasses & Legumes in Carbon Counties
<b>Terry Metcalfe</b> (406) 423-5580 (406) 366-0023 Cell	Fergus, Judith Basin Counties (Assisted by Bob Nelson and Ron Larson)

## Notice to Growers of SeCan Varieties

By agreement with SeCan of Canada, a royalty must be collected on seed sold or seed planted. If that seed has been produced under the MSGA Certification program in 2008, those fees are now due. The fee amount for Harrington barley is \$0.44 per bushel of seed sold. The fee amount for AC Metcalfe is \$0.77 per bushel of seed sold. These rates apply for seed sold July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. We will be collecting these fees in September of this year. A notice will be sent to producers and contractors of SeCan varieties.

Any grower has the option of becoming a SECAN member and obtaining the varieties directly from a Canadian grower. In which case the grower would not need to pay any royalties to MSGA, but would be required to pay them directly to SECAN. If you have questions on this, please feel free to call the MSGA office.

## Summer Time in Montana.....Crowing from the Fence Post

There is good news to crow about and that is "Hockett barley" has been approved for malt by the American Malting Barley Association. That goes along with Craft barley, so MSU has two new varieties approved by AMBA. The application for PVP title V on Hockett has been submitted and there will be a \$0.50 per bushel MSU Research Fee. Crowing about our good deeds continues with the announcement that MSU Research fees will be distributed to the spring wheat and winter wheat programs to support the breeding programs. The seed growers and producers have been very supportive of the \$0.30 per bu sold of the wheat varieties with a little over \$240K on 783,608 bu sold to date. Squawking like a crow, we continue with more on the success story from MSU. For every 100 bushels of MSU varieties produced by the MSGA seed producers, there are 60 bu sold and research fees collected from, 10 bu are replanted, 5 bu are cancelled and 15 bu are sold as grain. A lot of seed is moved through the program and this is healthy for crop improvement and the seed industry in Montana. Sitting on the fence and crowing louder, MSU will continue to support the efforts by Farmers Yield Initiative this coming year. Thank you for sending your research fees in timely and for those of you are tardy with payment, the crow will be squawking.

Have a good harvest,

Bill (The King Crow)

Busy time for the crows so let's get to down to business of Foundation Seed sales for the seed crop year 2009:

Yellowstone 607 bu, Genou 432 bu, Willow Creek 80 bu, Vida 640 bu, Choteau 443 bu.

Haybet 160 cwt, Hays 132 cwt.

Hockett 100 cwt, Craft 20 cwt.

Otana 81 cwt, Lucile Emmer 42.5 cwt, Frank spelt 40 cwt, SK3P spelt 2.5 cwt.

Cardinal safflower 4500 lbs, Melton Alfalfa 20 lbs.



*"For every 100 bushels of MSU varieties produced by the MSGA seed producers, there are 60 bu sold and research fees collected from, 10 bu are replanted, 5 bu are cancelled and 15 bu are sold as grain."*

## Have Fields Inspected Before Harvest!!!!

If a field is not inspected prior to harvest, no certification will be allowed on the production from that field. The field inspector who is listed for your county should be contacting you before inspection, but if you do not receive a call or note, please call the inspector to set up an inspection time or contact the MSGA office at 994-3516. **It is the grower's responsibility to make sure his/her fields have been inspected.**





## Roguing of Fields

We try to include this item each year as a reminder of some basic preparation that needs to be done before field inspection. All fields should be rogued at least once for off-type plants and contaminating weeds before the inspector arrives. This also gives growers the opportunity to cancel fields before inspection and receive an acreage fee refund. Note: refunds will not be given if the inspector has to drive to your field before you cancel, unless you are only canceling part of a field.

Alfalfa fields should be basically free of Yellow and White sweet clover prior to inspection. **NOTE: A count of more than 10 sweet clover plants per acre at inspection time is a basis for rejection of your alfalfa seed field.**

Alfalfa and other legumes need to be in bloom for proper inspection. Cereal grains and grasses must be in the ripening stage before they can be inspected to detect off-types and other contaminating crops (best done within 2 weeks of harvest especially on small grains).

## Wild Oats in Grain Fields

A special reminder is in order for growers of small grains. If there are wild oats in a field, they must be rogued out. The field inspectors will be rejecting fields estimated to have more than 5 wild oat plants per acre. Please note that fields of tame oats containing wild oats of any amount will likely be rejected, since wild oats cannot successfully be removed from this crop by conditioning plants. A grower may have a field re-inspected, but MSGA reserves the right to charge a re-inspection fee.

**The best policy is to rogue out all wild oats before the inspector arrives.**

MSGA also reserves the right to require that certified growers swath parts of fields (or otherwise mark out such parts) that are declared non-eligible due to wild oats or other contaminants. Discovery of co-mingling of such areas with otherwise certified parts of fields will be cause for rejection of whole fields. MSGA is determined that field inspection instructions will be followed as closely as possible.

## Notice on Cancelled Acres:

**NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A FIELD YOU WANT TO CANCEL FROM CERTIFICATION, PLEASE LET THE FIELD INSPECTOR KNOW AHEAD OF TIME SO THE INSPECTOR WILL NOT HAVE TO MAKE A TRIP TO THE FIELD. IF YOU CANNOT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE INSPECTOR, PLEASE CALL THE MSGA OFFICE AT 406-994-3516.**

ANY GROWER WHO CANCELS ANY FIELD BEFORE INSPECTION WILL RECEIVE A REFUND OF ACREAGE FEES FOR THE CANCELLED ACREAGE. Parts of fields may be canceled for a partial refund of fees. It is definitely to the grower's advantage to check out those fields before the inspector comes to determine if the whole field or any parts of the field should be canceled.

## Seed Lab Update

by Carli Lofing

- The Seed Lab Fiscal Year 2009 has ended with 3778 samples.
- The seed lab is currently conducting Canadian Standards on samples due to an increased demand for this. If you want Canadian standards please request this on your submission form.
- There is no new updates on the price increase for the Montana State Seed lab so the sample prices will remain the same until further notice.
- We all appreciate your business and patience as we were cut to a three person staff in March. This also leaves us with only two employees in the summer.
- Due to our staffing cut we will no longer be conducting the Clearfield test. If you want us to take out a portion of your sample and send it on to North Dakota we would be happy to do that for you as long as you indicate this on your sample submission papers.
- Bridget Westfall, along with former Montana State Seed Lab Manager Harold Armstrong, submitted a rule proposal for Camelina and the purity portion has passed.
- We are ready and excited for the new fiscal year! The trends of the seed industry always seem to amaze us. Last year we started off extremely slow in the fall, which is unusual, and got extremely busy in the spring. We had 1617 samples the first six months and 2150 samples the second six months.



*As of right now we currently have 732 applications and 65,521 acres in the program.*

*In 2008 we had 839 applications and 69,520 acres.*

## Upcoming Events!!!!!!!

- August 12: Western Ag. Research Center Field Day, Corvallis, MT
- September 1: SeCan Royalties Due
- October 1: North Dakota Research Fees Due



**Montana Seed Growers  
Association**

MSU - Marsh Laboratory  
P.O. Box 173146  
Bozeman, MT 59717-3146

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: (406) 994-3516  
Fax: (406) 994-1725  
[www.ag.montana.edu/msga](http://www.ag.montana.edu/msga)

“Look for the Tag on the Bag”.



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## 2009 Field Inspectors



*Left to Right: Ole Sherwood, Bob Nelson, Ron Larson, Jim Bott, Roger Brookie, Milt Munson, Hugh Brookie, Brian Bedord, Earl Belcher, Gary Schaff, Erin Miller, Carli Lofing, John Ranney. Not pictured: Bob Bristol, Terry Metcalfe.*