



Notes & Quotes

JULY 2010

Comments from the Manager.... Ron Larson

The 2010 growing season is progressing rapidly. There are reports of excellent crop yield potential in many parts of the state, with the exception of areas damaged by hail. The MSGA program is experiencing a minor drop in acreage applied for, down to some 62,000 acres about 4000 acres below the 2009 season. As expected we have seen a fairly sizable increase in acreage for the pulse crops - peas, lentils, and chickpeas, offsetting some of the reductions in small grain and alfalfa acreages.

As we consider the upcoming harvest season, a topic worth considering is maintenance of varietal purity through-out the harvest process. We've accomplished the work of keeping our varieties pure in the field, but how do we maintain that purity for our end use customers? I encourage producers to be diligent in cleaning out combines, trucks and bins in order to finish well and continue providing a quality product to the seed industry.

So, at this point I would like to zero in on combine cleaning. Seedsmen acknowledge the potential for seed lot contamination from poorly cleaned combines. They are not easy machines to clean, in general, but the effort must be made for the sake of maintaining varietal purity. Stories abound of undesirable and difficult to manage weeds and other crops that were introduced into previously clean fields, because this important step of cleaning out a combine was neglected. By the way, you should consider it to be well within your rights to ask custom cutters you hire to clean their machines prior to entry into your seed field (or commercial grain field for that matter).

Cleaning a combine should be automatically considered as a management step for all producers in the MSGA program. How much time should you spend? I maintain that a part of your management process should include a few hours devoted to this process between each variety and each class of seed being produced. In general, the process moves from the top to bottom of the machine and from the front to the back. By the way, just flushing the combine with the outside round or a few hundred feet of cutting upon entry to a seed field, dumping the collected contents from the grain tank and dropping trap doors is not enough. While I will admit that is better than not doing anything, there will likely be some sites in any machine that will not be flushed without help, and could go on to contaminate a seed lot. Some machinery dealers do offer a combine cleanout process for machinery being checked out over winter, but for those producers who have several varieties to harvest, it is a must for the operator/producer to know how to clean his/her own machine.

What kind of cleaning equipment is needed? Some producers now use a commercial air compressor with a high volume of air. You may need to obtain or make your own air wands to extend the air into remote areas of the combine that cannot otherwise be accessed. A good shop vac is also useful in this process. In addition, some are using water to remove contaminants by floating out the seed. (If you use water, you may want to consider a high volume of water, but not high pressure, due to the possibility of bearing damage). Sometimes a few simple alterations can be made to a combine such as cutting of inspection holes or attachment of air hose connectors and tubes that will allow for better access and cleaning. Parking the machine on blocks on first one side and then the other also may help in removal of contaminants as the cleaning process progresses.

I have attached a check-off sheet that may be useful as you develop your own specific clean-out process. If you have specific questions on cleaning your machine, you may want to try the service representative of a machinery dealership that sells combines in your area.

I hope you all have a successful harvest season.

Board of Directors

Bob Hodgskiss-President
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Staff

Ron Larson-Manager
(406) 994-5121
rlarson@montana.edu
Heather Rimel-Program
Coordinator
(406) 994-7372
hrimel@montana.edu
Tamara Vook-Program
Assistant
(406) 994-3516
tvook@montana.edu

Winter Crop

Directory:

The winter wheat/crop directory is now online. We will not be sending out hard copies this year unless by request.

Field Inspectors 2010

Bob Bristol (406) 644-3099 (406) 529-3388 cell	Flathead, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders Counties
Bob Nelson (406) 378-2424 (406) 390-2695 cell	Fergus, Judith Basin Counties
Brian Bedord (406) 463-2475 (406) 590-9092 cell	Northern Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Fergus, Judith Basin, Teton Counties
Earl Belcher (406) 648-5549 (406) 600-9860 cell	Garfield, McCone, Valley Counties
Erin Miller (406) 434-5943 (406) 460-4322 cell	Pondera, Glacier, Chouteau, Liberty, Toole Counties
Gary Schaff (406) 448-6149 (406) 489-0522 cell	Daniels, Dawson, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Wibaux Counties
Hugh Brookie (406) 654-4063 cell	Phillips County
Jim Bott (406) 234-3848 (406) 951-1324 cell	Carter, Custer, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure, Bighorn, Fallon Counties
Milt Munson (406) 442-1756 (406) 459-8888 cell	Boradwater, Lower part of Lewis & Clark, Gallatin, Powell Counties
Ole Sherwood (406) 328-6617 (406) 321-0324 cell	Beans & Alfalfa in Yellowstone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Small Grains in Carbon Counties
Roger Brookie (406) 654-4277 cell	Hill, Blaine Counties
Ron Larson (406) 994-5721 office (406) 581-2327 cell	Gallatin, Beaverhead, Madison Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Granite, Meagher, Wheatland, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Silver Bow, Grasses & Legumes in Carbon, Small Grains in Yellowstone, Musselshell, Petroleum Counties

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 2009, 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, 2009 through June 30, 2010. 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.

Combine Preparation for Harvesting Seed Crops

- A. Clean off the machine before you leave the field
 - 1. Open all trap doors
 - 2. Open sieves wide
 - 3. Clean off feeder house and head
 - 4. Clean out grain tank (sweep ledges)
 - 5. Engage separator portion and unloading auger for 2-3 minutes
- B. Dismantle combine
 - 1. Remove shields
 - 2. Remove head
 - 3. Remove sieves and chopper/spreader (optional)
- C. Rough clean (air hose)
 - 1. Place cylinder in neutral position and lower concave
 - 2. Clean off upper areas of combine
 - 3. Turn unloading auger backwards and blow down the tube
 - 4. Blow down grain tank (watch ledges and joints)
 - 5. Blow cylinder area clean, slowly turn cylinder
 - 6. Blow sieve and chopper area clean (clean augers under sieves)
 - 7. Walk around combine and clean exterior
- D. Fine cleaning
 - 1. Turn unloading auger backwards and blow down tube
 - 2. Blow down grain tank
 - 3. Blow off top areas of combine
 - 4. Blow cylinder area clean
 - 5. Blow down feeder house (backwards)
 - 6. Blow sieve and chopper/spreader area clean
 - 7. Blow top to bottom and return and clean grain elevators
 - 8. Walk around combine blowing and rechecking
 - 9. Blow off detached head
- E. Vacuuming
 - 1. Grain tank and unloading auger base
 - 2. Combine cab interior
 - 3. Cylinder area
 - 4. Sieve area
 - 5. Recheck combine exterior
- F. Reassemble
 - 1. Check for missed areas and any repairs needed
 - 2. Put sieves in place
 - 3. Place cylinder into gear and raise concave
 - 4. Attach chopper/spreader
 - 5. Replace shields
 - 6. With traps open, start machine and engage separator mechanism for 2-3 minutes
 - 7. Check in grain tank and at all trap openings
 - 8. Attach head, leave traps open
- G. Flushing
 - 1. Start separator mechanism before you enter the field for 2-3 minutes with traps open
 - 2. Start into fields with clean grain and return open for 50-100' then close traps
 - 3. Harvest the first 20-30 bushels and dump as commercial
 - 4. Always check truck before unloading grain tank
 - 5. For your protection take a good random sample as the grain is moved to storage

New Department of Agriculture Employee....



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is JonCee Kelley and I am the Commodity Dealer/Commodity Warehouse and Seed Specialist with the Montana Department of Agriculture. I have a long standing connection with Montana Agriculture. My family has a cow/calf operation in the Deer Lodge Valley. I graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in Animal Science in 2003. Since graduating, I lived in Vermont where I worked for First Pioneer Farm Credit and was an owner in a dairy operation. I moved back to Montana in September 2009 and have been living and helping on the ranch. I started my position with the department in June and I am excited to have the opportunity to stay active in Montana Agriculture.

Direct: (406) 444-3950

Email: jkelly@mt.gov

A REQUEST:

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

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.**

Foundation Decade Hard Red Winter Wheat..... Bill Grey

Decade will be available this fall, 2010 and will be submitted for PVP license, title V. Qualified seed producers are to submit an application and request a MSU research fee agreement prior to receiving an allocation of foundation seed. Decade may be observed while in production at three locations, MSU-NARC (Havre), MSU-EARC (Sidney) and NDSU-Williston Research and Extension Centers. A PVP license, with Title V, will be applied for. Contact W. Grey, 994-5687, wgrey@montana.edu for seed information, application and MSU research fee agreement.

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).

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. Refunds will not be issued until all inspections are completed, usually September.

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 comingling 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.

Return Service Requested

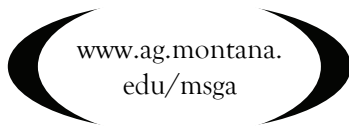


**MONTANA SEED
GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

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

Phone: (406) 994-7372
Fax: (406) 994-1725
E-mail: hrimel@montana.edu

*"Look for the Tag on the
Bag"*



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Field Inspectors for 2010



*Left to right: Back row—Earl Belcher, Jim Bott, Erin Miller, Brian Bedord, Bob Bristol, Hugh Brookie, Ole Sherwood, Milt Munson, Roger Brookie.
Front row—Heather Rimel, Bob Nelson, Gary Schaff, Ron Larson.*