



Notes & Quotes

Comments from the Manager...

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**The Winter Wheat
Directory is now
online. No hard
copies will be sent
out in the mail. If
you do not have ac-
cess to the internet
call the office and
we will mail you a
copy.**

For the 2012 growing season, the very warm conditions and drought are causing ripening to progress rapidly in many areas and field inspections are in progress as this is being written. We are headed into a record breaking season for MSGA as we have applications totaling over 78,000 acres so far. Of course there have already been a number of acres cancelled for various reasons (one of the big reasons this year is excess volunteer crop from previous years). Statistically, we have at least 4% of the applied for acreage cancelled every year. Even so, we have a 30% increase in applied for acreage over last year, and a 13% increase over the previous highest record acreage set in 2008. Needless to say, this process will be a challenge for the inspection staff.

We have also noticed a number of new producers in the program this year. With that in mind, it seems logical to review some aspects of the certification process for successful seed production. Each producer should take the time to read the MSGA Standards for the crop being produced, as well as the general standards (as seen on the MSGA website, or call us for a copy). Assuming that a particular lot of seed has passed field inspection, there are still a number of steps to the process that must be satisfied before any seed is finally certified and deserving of certification tags or bulk certificates, as shown in the steps below.

1. Seed is harvested with care being taken to avoid contamination. Observe isolation boundaries, clean the combine before harvesting, clean out trucks and storage bins. Label seed storage bins to make sure varieties and seed classes are not mixed or contaminated.
2. The seed lot must be cleaned through certified seed conditioning facilities (except for those few producers who have their own conditioning equipment).
3. A representative sample of the entire cleaned seed lot must be sent to MSGA for log-in to the State Seed Lab for purity and germination testing. This is also true for the producer who keeps his own seed to use as stock seed for plant back the next year – all seed that is coming back into the certification program the next year must be tested and approved. Barley seed may also require testing for BSMV if the previous generation has not been tested for this disease. An ascochyta disease test is required for all seed lots of lentil and chickpea.
4. Final Certification is granted by MSGA staff when it is determined that the lab analysis meets the criteria listed in the MSGA seed standards. A stamp showing MSGA approval is applied to the lab report before being sent

Field Inspectors for 2012

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) 450-4858 cell	Pondera, Glacier, Chouteau, Liberty, Toole Counties
Gary Schaff (406) 448-6149 (406) 489-0522 cell	Daniels, Dawson, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Wibaux Counties
Jim Bott (406) 234-3848 (406) 951-1324 cell	Carter, Custer, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure, Bighorn, Fallon Counties
John Ranney (406) 656-8066 office (406) 696-3960 cell	Small Grains in Petroleum, Musselshell, and Yellowstone 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) 654-4272 cell	Hill, Blaine and Phillips Counties
Ron Larson (406) 994-5121 office (406) 581-2327 cell	Flathead, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders, 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

Comments from the Manager continued...

to the customer. At this point, seed tags may be made or bulk certificates used to properly label the seed. (Please note that production fees are due on clean seed, or an estimate of it, 30 days after harvest, but definitely by April 15 of the following year. (See MSGA General Crop Standards for the fee structure by crop type.)

Here is an important procedural step for seed dealers who import seed lots into Montana from another state or country (called interagency seed). All such seed lots must be approved by the MSGA office before MSGA bulk seed sales certificates can be issued. We do this to ensure that the seed meets MSGA standards and the proper sample amount has been tested. Successful lots are stamped with an MSGA stamp along with the interagency designation in preparation for sale and issuance of the bulk seed sales certificate. Since the state seed law declares all seed sold must have a label, the verification of the lab analysis and issuance of bulk seed sales certificates are both important steps for compliance with the law. For questions on this process, feel free to call the MSGA office.

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.

Rouging 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).

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage

As a reminder to the growers MSGA offers the service of Noxious Weed Seed Free forage inspection on straw. If you are interested in this service you will need to inform your field inspector before inspection. Field inspections are done within 14 days of harvest along with an equipment and storage inspection. There will be an additional cost of \$2.50 per acre on anything that you decide to put in the NWSFF program. This may be an excellent way for you to add additional value to your crop! For more information take a look at the Department of Agriculture website or contact us here at the MSGA office.

Please take note of these yearly reminders. It is the GROWERS responsibility to make sure their fields get inspected so call and set up a time with your inspector. If the field is not inspected prior to harvest, no certification will be allowed on the production from that field. Contact the MSGA office with any questions.



Foundation Seed Update... Bill Grey

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

Foundation Seed Tags and Tote Bags! Please look for your seed tag on the tote bags and submit with your application for certification. It is easy to lose and forget the single tag for a large tote and definitely not as convenient as all those individual tags on bushel bags. You will still need the tag for your application. Thank you for your help in submitting those tags, it is a big help for the Seed Growers Association.

Foundation Seed Application and Order for this coming fall planting. Please submit your orders sooner than later. The harvest of winter wheat looks to be early this year. Currently, we have an adequate storage inventory for Genou and minimal amount of Bearpaw. This season we will be harvesting Yellowstone, Judee, Bearpaw and Decade among the winter wheats and for the spring crops, Duclair, Vida, Haxby, Haybet, Otana, and Delaney sainfoin. If you can submit a request sooner than later, it would be a big help in processing the varieties.

Foundation Seed Allocations in 2012:

Bearpaw 598 bu, Judee 875 bu, Yellowstone 290 bu.

Duclair 756 bu, Vida 150 bu

Otana 60 cwt, Monico 17.5 cwt, Frank Spelt 5 cwt.

Haxby 80 cwt, Haybet 33 cwt, Hays 38.4 cwt, Hockett 168.77 cwt, Lavina 6 cwt

Shaw alfalfa 165 lbs, Melton alfalfa 70 lbs.

Bill Grey

Upcoming Dates

- September 1: SeCan Royalties Due
- October 1: North Dakota Research Fees Due
- October 26-27: MSU Celebrate Ag!! (Ag Appreciation Weekend)—Bozeman
- September 26: Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture—Great Falls
- December 4-6: MGGA Annual Meeting & Trade Show—Great Falls
- January 30-February 1: MABA—Great Falls
- February 14-16 MATE Show—Billings

**Get your orders in
now for Montana
Foundation Seed by
visiting**

[http://
plantsciences.montana.
edu/FoundationSeed/](http://plantsciences.montana.edu/FoundationSeed/)

Or contact Bill Grey at:
wgrey@montana.edu
(406) 994-5687

Montana State Seed Lab News . . . Ron Larson

The State Seed Lab has recently received a new seed library (herbarium) with some 4000 specimens of crops and weeds (donated by Gil Waibel and the University of Wyoming Seed Analysis Lab). This will be a help especially in training of new analysts as well as assisting in current analysis work. We are grateful to Gil and his crew for sharing this important resource.

I would also like to thank the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee for a recent grant to purchase 2 new germination chambers plus a new microscope for the seed lab . We appreciate the addition of the new equipment and the replacement of a couple of broken and rusted units.

After consultation with the Seed Lab Advisory Board and approval of MAES Director Jeff Jacobsen, we have adjusted a few of the prices on the Seed Lab fee schedule, effective July 1. We have added \$3.00 to the purity price for cereal grain, large-seeded legumes and Safflower to recoup for price of the seed count, which automatically goes with this test (note - the customer can request that the seed count be omitted and the purity price will be reduced by \$3). Other fee increases include the ascochyta test for peas, chickpeas and lentils (now \$72 each), pellet testing (now \$61) and Canadian purity price will be a minimum of \$38 and charged out on an hourly basis. The overall fee schedule will be reviewed again by the advisory committee after the financial results of the last fiscal year have been analyzed.

Thank you to all our customers for your support as you make use of the MSU Seed Lab for your seed analysis needs.

Notice on Canceled 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.

*Remember to get your
winter wheat
germination samples in
early as they take and
additional 5 days due to
pre-chilling.*

**Montana Seed Growers
Association**

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Fax: (406) 994-1725

Web: :www.ag.montana.edu/



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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 2011, those fees are now due. The fee amount for Harrington barley is \$0.50 per bushel of seed sold. The fee amount for AC Metcalfe is \$0.90 per bushel of seed sold. These rates apply for seed sold July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. 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.