



Notes & Quotes

Spring 2012

Montana Seed Growers Association

2012 Board of Director Meeting

February 21st and 22nd the Board of Directors met in Bozeman. This year will mark the 100 year anniversary for the Montana Seed Growers Association! For this exciting year we have Pat Lake of Ronan as our President and John Wold of Laurel as our Vice President. Other members or our board are Rod Kitto of Toston, Steve Grove of Moccasin, Bob Hodgskiss of Choteau, Charlie Cahill of Scobey and Ex-Officio John Sherwood of Bozeman. Listed below are some of the topics covered this year. If you would like more information on any of them please contact the office.

- Honorary Membership—Given to Butch Andresen of Poplar and Bernie Schaff, Past Post Farm Manger from Bozeman
- Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Lloyd Harris of Bozeman for his past service on the Board
- Seed Lab Advisory Committee report/update
- Discussion on Alfalfa Genetic Opportunity Zones in relation to Certification
- Discussion on Clearfield Technology in relation to Certification Requirements
- Montana Seed Trade Report
- Montana Foundation Seed Report—given by Dr. Bill Grey
- MAES Variety Release Committee Report
- Luther Talbert presented an update of MSU's Spring Wheat Program
- Montana Department of Agriculture update by Greg Stordahl
- Report on Gallatin Valley Farm Fair for which MSGA helps teach 940 4th graders about crops over three days
- The Board once again voted to sponsor the State FFA Agronomy Contest this year (held in Bozeman March 2012)
- An update was given by Joe Scianna and Jim Jacobs on from the NRCS Plant Materials Center

Board of Directors

Pat Lake – President
John Wold – Vice Pres.
Rod Kitto
Steve Grove
Bob Hodgskiss
Charlie Cahill
John Sherwood – Ex-officio

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L to R: Steve Grove, Rod Kitto, Pat Lake, John Wold, Bob Hodgskiss and Charlie Cahill

The Manager's Corner

by Ron Larson

Spring seeding time is here and along with that comes decision time for seed crops. By the time you see this article, seed may likely have been purchased and perhaps even planted. The season seems to be ahead of normal this year by a couple of weeks. I thought it would be helpful to include a list of items for consideration as you prepare for certification of your seed fields.

1. Previous crop history of fields selected for seed production may be an issue. You must list the previous 3 years of crop history on your application. Check the MSGA Standards to make sure your crop history qualifies. If in doubt, call the MSGA office
2. Save your seed tags from purchased stock seed – a copy of the tag or bulk sales certificate (BC) must be supplied as official documentation with each application unless the producer is using his/her own seed. In that case, a copy of the lab report is sufficient.
3. Be aware of the MSGA standards for the seed crop you are producing. Don't just take someone else's word for how to manage your certified seed field. The standards for each crop kind are on the MSGA website, or we will send you a hard copy if you request it from the MSGA office.
4. Is your equipment clean? Make sure truck beds, drills, and augers or conveyors are clean before you begin handling your planting seed, to avoid contamination from other varieties or other crop kinds.
5. Remember that, ultimately, it is the producer's responsibility to make sure that contact has been made for the field inspector and fields have been inspected before harvest. MSGA has the right and obligation to reject any field if inspection has been harvested before inspection, or if the proper time for inspection has been missed (as in the case of crops requiring bloom inspections).
6. Respect application due dates to make sure we can do the inspection process in a timely manner. Alfalfa, Peas, Chickpeas, Lentils, oil seed crops like camelina and canola (safflower is due June 15) in general need to be inspected when they are in bloom, so are required to be sent by May 25. Small grains are due June 15, unless a seedling inspection is needed. In that case we generally need the application by June 1 (see special case note below).

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From the Manager, continued

Special Case: A registered class of seed of a given small grain variety may be planted on land which previously produced common seed from a documented certified class of the same variety, provided that

- *A copy of the certified tag, bulk sales certificate, or lab report is supplied to MSGA.*
 - *There is a year of summer-fallow between the crop years.*
 - *Application for certification is received early enough by MSGA on the registered class seed to allow for a seedling inspection. This crop would ultimately receive 2 inspections and is subject to a second inspection fee.*
 - *Foundation seed planted on such a field could only be used to produce the certified seed class.*
7. Follow the directives of the field inspector with regard to avoiding parts of fields with excess weed seed, other crop or other problems. The MSGA board of directors passed a policy this last year with regard to producers who ignore these field inspection directives. The agency has the option to reject the whole field, or disallow the field to have any partial rejections for 2 following successive crop seasons.

Feel free to contact the MSGA Office with questions or concerns about any of these items. May this crop season be a successful one for all of our producers.

Harlem Seed Show—March 8-11, 2012

Congratulations the all of the Blue Ribbon winners from the Harlem Seed Show!

Listed below in alphabetical order are all the Blue Ribbon Winners for Certified Seed:

Box L Farms, Richland
 Bruce Seed Farm, Toston (was also best of show)
 Busch Ag. Resources, Fairfield
 Circle S Seeds of Montana, Inc., Three Forks
 Golden Triangle Seed, Rudyard
 Kulish Farms, Stanford
 Lake Seed, Ronan
 Maloney Brothers, Turner
 Montana Seed & Grain, Billings
 Reich Brothers, Willow Creek
 Skov Farm, Fairview
 Vince Ployhar, Denton
 Westland Seed, Ronan
 Zellmer Seed & Grain, Hogeland



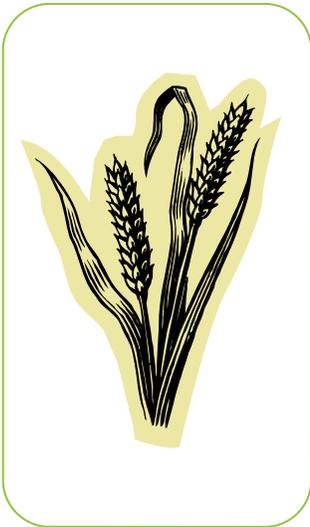


Foundation Seed Update by Dr. Bill Grey

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

Duclair spring wheat had an inaugural allocation of 768 foundation bushels to seed growers. The demand was higher than our available stocks with this first release among seed growers and MSU ag researchers. We should have adequate inventory for 2013 as there will be over 30 acres this season at EARC, POST farm, and MSU Towne farm. Thank you for your patience, we work to get the variety out as soon as possible to the seed growers.

Other numbers for winter/spring allocation: Vida 70 bu, Otana 60 cwt, Monico 17.5 cwt, Haxby 80 cwt, Hockett 85 cwt, Lavina 6 cwt, Shaw 135 lbs, Melton 40 lbs. Fall Allocations: Bearpaw 598 bu, Judee 875 bu, Yellowstone 290 bu. Currently, there are good supplies of Choteau, Vida, Lavina, and Hockett.



A few changes with the Montana Foundation Seed Program. The Price List and Application can be downloaded from the web page <http://plantsciences.montana.edu/FoundationSeed/>. The hard copy mailings have been discontinued in 2012 and there are no plans to bring them back. If you can't get used to the web page, call me, I am happy to mail a price list and application. Several of you have used the on-line application process which comes to my email 24/7. Other changes in production, we are moving to totes, almost exclusively 40 bu for wheat and 2000 lbs for barley. The totes work great for storing, handling, and shipping. We can sack off into bushel bags yet this has become a rare event in the last two years. We are also considering a procedure of an "advanced allocation" that would involve an early request, down payment on the allocated amount and final invoice following successful seed analysis. As normal, your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

See you at one of the field days this summer,

Bill Grey

Label Reminder:

A quick reminder to those of you still selling certified seed. State Seed Law states that a label must accompany a seed sale. If you are selling bagged seed, make sure the label is attached. If it is going out as bulk you will need to make sure the label goes with the truck. For those of you using bulk certificates a label includes the following: MSGA bulk certificate sticker, lot number, kind of seed, variety, origin, germination, date of germination, purity analysis (must include percents of inert by weight, other crop by weight, weed seed by weight, pure seed and name and number of restricted noxious seeds), full name and address of seller. In addition you must have the amount sold written on the label or bulk certificate. If you have any labeling questions please contact the MSGA office.

Ascochyta in Pulse Crops by Dr. Mary Burrows & Dr. Bill Grey

Ascochyta blight in pulse crops is a potentially serious disease. Chickpea varieties, especially the kabuli types, are very susceptible to Ascochyta blight. Peas and lentils are more resistant as a general rule, but as we plant more pulse acres the disease pressure will also increase. Varieties for Montana and North Dakota with resistance are on-going as the pathogen has adapted to deployment of resistant plant genes. Prolonging the life of a variety will involve integrated pest management practices of field scouting, rotation to non-host crops, following fungicide labels, and use of seed lots with low incidence of Ascochyta and treated with an effective fungicide.

1. Ascochyta blight or foliar disease is initiated by spores released from seed borne inoculum or previously infected crop residue. The environment must be warm (60-75°F) and repeatedly wet to create a serious epidemic. Resistant varieties reduce the symptom development and spore production while fungicides can prevent spore germination and reduce a previous infection.
2. The species of fungus are unique, so what is called Ascochyta blight on lentil does not infect peas or chickpeas. We recommend at least 3 years in the crop rotation between pulse crops because of Ascochyta blight and soilborne root diseases.
3. The Ascochyta blight on chickpeas in Montana and North Dakota is resistant to strobilurin fungicides: products such as pyraclostrobin (Headline) and Azoxystrobin (Quadris) are still not recommended for this disease in chickpea. These products are still effective against Ascochyta blight in peas and lentils.
4. Rotate fungicide chemistries (modes of action, or FRAC groups) on all crops so we do not see further fungicide resistance develop for this disease on all pulse crops.
5. Prevent introduction of Ascochyta to a field with a seed test by contacting the Montana State Seed Testing Lab at (406) 994-2141. Request an Ascochyta test when you submit your seed for quality measurements. The test takes 2-3 weeks, so we recommend submitting directly after harvest to make a decision on the use of a seed lot for the planting season.

The number of seed samples with Ascochyta has been steadily rising from 15 in 2009 to 180 in testing year 2012 (table, below). The increased acreages in pulses combined with two consecutive growing years of high rainfall probably have contributed to the high incidence of seedborne Ascochyta. The laboratory test for seed borne Ascochyta involves the plating of 500 seeds on media for the growth and identification of the fungal pathogen. For example, a 5% level of Ascochyta would result from 25 seeds testing positive for Ascochyta out of 500 tested. If a seed test is positive for Ascochyta, there is a potential for the disease to develop in the field. We are recommending that a management "action" is initiated when the seed sample an incidence of Ascochyta is greater than 0% for chickpea, 5% for pea and 5% for lentil. The management "action" calls for a seed treatment with LSP/Mertect for Ascochyta in addition to the standard seed treatments for seed decay and damping off. The management "action" also includes scouting fields during the seedling stage to detect symptoms and the application of a foliar fungicide where appropriate.

Levels of seedborne ascochyta in pulse crop samples submitted to the Schutter Diagnostic Laboratory.

Year	Chickpea			Pea			Lentil		
	n	# above Action level	# with Ascoc	n	# above Action level	# with Ascoc	n	# above Action level	# with Ascoc
2009	2	0	0	57	0	15	25	0	3
2010	4	1	1	83	8	54	53	8	23
2011	14	6	6	107	3	91	163	19	77
2012	15	12	12	138	11	55	127	7	100



Montana Seed Growers Association

Return Service Requested

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MSU - Marsh Laboratory
P.O. Box 173146
Bozeman, MT 59717-3146
Phone: (406) 994-7372
Fax: (406) 994-1725
E-mail: hrimel@montana.edu

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www.ag.montana.edu/msga

Application Deadlines:

Applications for certification of perennial crops (plus canola, peas and lentils) are due May 25th.

* Applications for certification of all other crops are due June 15th.

* Applications postmarked after June 15th - June 30th will be assessed a \$50 late fee.

* Applications postmarked after June 30th will be assessed a \$100 late fee.

Fees: The following fees MUST accompany the *Application for Certification* to the MSGA office :

Annual Filing Fee - Payable with each application \$30/ Application

Acreage Fee - Will be refunded on acreage cancelled before field inspection

 All Crops: \$2.50/ Acre

With the exception of:

 Field Beans: \$6.00/ Acre

Remember that two (2) field maps are required to be supplied with each application. Maps need to be clearly marked with boundaries for each field. One map will stay in MSGA files and the other will be sent to the appropriate field inspector.

Production Fees:

Ideally, production fees should be paid 30 days after harvest but are not considered "late" until April 16th. Growers risk having their current year's applications withheld from the program if production fees have not been paid for any previous year. Additionally, foundation seed requests for new MSU varieties may be denied if the previous year's production fees have not been paid. Please call Heather if you have questions on what you owe.