

Notes & Quotes

Montana Seed Growers Association



Seed Lab Update

Lucy Cooke, long time seed analyst specializing in germination and TZ testing, has just announced her plans for retirement, effective May 31st. Her expertise and talents will be greatly missed by the lab. We wish you the very best in your retirement!



Spring 2013

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Harlem Seed Show

The ribbons are in the office for the 2013 Harlem Seed Show! Congratulations to all of our winners. Listed below are the overall purple winners. For all other ribbons contact the office directly.

Barber Seed—Denton, MT
Bruce Seed—Townsend, MT
Cahill Seeds—Scobey, MT

**It is that time of year for applications!
Please contact the office for forms.
Perennial crops are due by May 25th and
Annual crops are due by June 15th.**

From the Manager

Springtime is supposed to be arriving, but inclement weather is not yet allowing for spring planting in some parts of the state. Some areas are quite dry (there are already a few stories of desiccated and failed winter wheat fields) and other places like NE Montana are very wet. Whatever the situation, seed is moving and growers are preparing to plant. Initial considerations to be made before planting, may include crop kind and variety, seed treatments, and the like.

If you are producing seed for a contractor, the crop and variety decision may be made for you by the contractor. There are a number of choices for seed treatment for most crop kinds, so it is useful to be aware of disease potential for the area to be planted. In general, seed treatments are a good insurance policy for successful early development of crops.

The seed certification process is a method of providing independent third party verification of early generation, genetically and mechanically pure, viable seed ultimately for the commercial producer who supplies these crops for the end user. The process requires dedicated “seed producers” who are committed to management practices that maintain a high level of genetic and mechanical purity. Following are some factors to consider:

- 1) Seed hauling equipment – if you purchase seed in bulk, is the delivery truck clean?
- 2) Planters – have you taken the time to examine your seed planter to verify that it has been thoroughly cleaned before use to prevent contamination?
- 3) Field selection – in general, don’t choose fields that have troublesome weed problems or other management issues that increase the risk of failure. Choosing fields that are rotated from other crop kinds is a helpful management practice for curbing the impacts of volunteer grain or other crops.
- 4) Application –The MSGA application is a 4-part form that needs to be filled out in its entirety. Information needed includes acreage size of each field, a listing of the previous 3 years of crop history, and a calculation of the fees. Please submit all the pages back to the MSGA office for approval and assignment of a certification/field number (in the upper right-hand corner of the application). The office then returns an approved copy to the contractor and the producer.

From the Manager Continued....

- 4) Include 2 copies of your FSA field map or other map indicating the field shape and size with your application.
- 5) Include a check with application covering the \$30 application cost and the acreage fee of \$2.50 per acre. (Exception: Field beans are \$6.00 per acre and hybrid canola, \$5.00 per acre).
- 6) Proof of certification – Have you kept a seed tag from bagged seed or a bulk seed sales certificate to include with your application for certification? And are you preparing the application in order to meet the MSGA deadlines for applying – April 25 for pulse crops, canola, alfalfa and grasses; June 15 for all other crops, including small grains and safflower. (Note: each year the agency collects hundreds of dollars in late fees for those late applications – our preference is rather to have the applications in on time. By the way, applications can usually be found at the office of your local county extension agent, or they can be ordered from the MSGA Office.
- 7) Field Roguing – are you prepared to remove contaminants that appear in a seed field prior to inspection by MSGA? The field standards for each crop type are on the MSGA website or are available in hard copy from the MSGA office if you would prefer that. If contaminants are detected by the field inspector, counts will be used to determine if the field is in compliance with the standards. Out-of compliance fields will be rejected by the field inspector. The producer has the option to rogue to attempt to bring the field into compliance. A re-inspection can be requested, by calling the MSGA office or contacting the inspector directly. A re-inspection fee of \$25 plus time and mileage will be charged for this service.

Hopefully, these points will be helpful as you prepare for a successful season in the seed business. There appears to be a lot of demand for seed, and your efforts serve a vital need in the crop production industry. Feel free to call Heather or myself in the MSGA office with any questions you may have.

Don't forget as the spring season comes to an end to send in all of your bulk certificate reports!

Foundation Seed Update Bill Grey

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“April Showers, Brings May Flowers”,day dreaming for waves of showers with intermittent breaks to finish the seeding, June flowers for wheat and barley to avoid frost damage, summer of once a week soakers, grain filling period without hail, and a dry harvest to bring home the crop, so before awakening from dreamland, let it snow, let it snow in the winter.

This has to be the spring of hay barleys and I am glad we had an inventory on hand to meet the demand. Believe me, we shook the bags, swept the floor, peeked down the augers and rattled the bins to get every last kernel of Lavina, Hays, and Haybet. We will gear up this season with Lavina and Hays, as these are the two improved hay barleys. If you still have room for barley, there are 6 totes of Haxby and 3 totes of Hockett, available on a first come first serve, any time this season, basis.

Winter wheat varieties were 1800 bu for the fall of 2013 and 2012 which is above the long term average of 1200 bu. This fall, the new releases of Colter and Warhorse, will add to the quiver of varieties that growers can chose from. Spring wheat allocation was 589 bu, down from 900 bu in 2012 and the long term average of 1100 bu. No doubt the drought is a downer and following a downpour we can meet the deluge of demand for Duclair, done. Totes of Duclair are available from Sidney and Bozeman.

You heard it here, a first in MSU variety development, Dr. Joyce Eckhoff, MSU EARC, has released a durum variety called “Silver” that will be available in 2014. Information on Silver Durum, Colter HRWW, and Warhorse HRWW as Protected MAES Public Release (s) and a Hard White Winter Wheat MTW08168 an Exclusive Licensed Release, can be found on the Montana Foundation webpage, link to “Small Grain Quick Facts” and “2013 Motions for Release & Recommendation”.

Foundation seed allocation for Crop Year 2013:

Bearpaw 80 bu, Judee 371 bu, Willow Creek 162 bu, Yellowstone 396 bu.

Choteau 30 bu, Duclair 400 bu, Vida 159 bu.

Hockett 74 cwt, Haxby 68 cwt, Haybet 57 cwt, Hays 38.5 cwt, Lavina 530.4 cwt.

Monico 15.6 cwt, Delaney 459 lbs. Shaw 30 lbs, Melton 15 lbs.

Recycle Those Pesticide Plastic Containers!

Do you want to dispose of all those plastic pesticide containers? Why not recycle them through the Montana Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Container Recycling Program?

The Recycling Program will kick off its season starting again May 2013. The Pesticide Container Recycling Program is designed to promote, enhance and effectuate sustainable outcomes related to recycling throughout the state. This program was created to protect and improve Montana's environment by keeping plastic pesticide containers out of Montana's landfills. Plastics can take 100-1,000 years to break down in a landfill. Participating in the program also saves energy because producing new products from recycled plastic containers requires only two-thirds the energy of producing the same product from raw materials. This program is being offered at no cost as a completely voluntary program and the recycled material is most commonly used to make field drain pipe.

Participating in the Pesticide Container Recycling Program is easy. All #2 HDPE Pesticide containers are accepted for recycling. All pesticide containers must be triple rinsed or power rinsed. Container must have the lid and foil liner removed, as well as any rubber gaskets, metal handles, and label booklets. Labels that are glued on may be left on the container.

Large pesticide containers will need to be cut into small pieces. Five-gallon containers should be cut in half length-wise, with the handle and rubber gasket removed. Larger containers, like 30-gallon and 55-gallon drums, need to be cut into eight pieces or pieces measuring 2ft x 2ft so that it will fit into grinder opening. Plastic pesticide containers will be accepted at various collection sites and the Pesticide Container Recycling Program truck will travel to those collection sites to collect and grind the plastic containers. Contact Carli Lofing, Montana Department of Agriculture, 406 228-9512, with any questions or to find a collection site near your area. You can also visit the website at <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Pesticides/Environmental/ContainerRecycling/>

The MDA Pesticide Container Recycling Program sponsored a one-time mini grant program to assist the industry and counties in implementing pesticide container recycling collection sites. The program had approximately \$25,000 in funds generated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be awarded to successful applicants. The funding was to be used for increasing new sites, expanding existing sites, or enhancing recycling efforts throughout the state. This mini grant was intended to increase the capacity of the program by allowing counties across the state opportunities for funding to implement their recycling efforts. The grant was due back to the MDA the end of April and the MDA received an unbelievable response. The MDA will award 17 mini grants amongst County Weed Districts, County Extension Services, Landfills, and Commercial Applicators who applied for the recycling grant. These applicants are located across Montana and are going to implement unique ideas ranging from cattle panel collection pens to mobile trailer collection pens. Since October of 2009, the MDA Pesticide Container Recycling Program has collected over 50,000 lbs. of pesticide plastic. With the new collection sites, the MDA hopes to substantially increase the number of pounds of pesticide plastic collected by offering more areas for applicators to drop off clean pesticide containers.

Carli Lofing can be reached at::

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BOZEMAN, MT

PERMIT NO. 127

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“Look for the tag on the bag”

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.