



## Notes & Quotes from the

# Montana Seed Growers Association

FOURTH QUARTER

OCTOBER 2008

### MSGA Board of Directors:

John Grass-President  
Bear Whitmer-Vice Pres.

John Wold  
John McDonnell  
Patrick Lake  
Jim Kulish  
John Sherwood (ex-  
officio)

### Staff:

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Coordinator  
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## 2008 Production Fees Are Due

Production fees for seed harvested from all crops are due within 30 days after harvest. Fees for the 2008 cropping season must be received by April 15, 2009. **Fees are due on all crops which have passed the field inspection even if they do not pass final lab analysis or are not carried through certification beyond field inspection.** Growers may not receive an invoice for crops grown under contract with a seed dealer. All fees should be calculated on a clean seed basis. To determine "clean seed" production on an uncleaned lot, deduct 10% (average cleanout) from total uncleaned production.

### Prices are as follows:

Wheat-Flax-Kamut-Rye-Spelt-Triticale	.05/bu on clean seed
Barley-Oats-Buckwheat-Peas-Lentils	.08/cwt on clean seed
Oil Seeds	.12/cwt on clean seed
Perennial Crops—	
All Grass Varieties	.005/lb
Perennial Legume Crops	.005/lb
Flowering Saltbush	.25/cwt
Field Beans—No production fees are due on bean seed production.	



## Director Elections for Districts 2 & 3:

It is time once again for district elections for our Board of Directors. This year elections will be conducted for Director of District 2, Currently held by John McDonnell of Three Forks, and is comprised of Lewis & Clark, Powell, Granite, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Broadwater, Meagher, Park, Gallatin, Madison, Sweet Grass, and Beaverhead counties; and District 3, currently held by John Wold of Laurel comprised of Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Carter, and Fallon counties. All growers enrolled in the program in Districts 2 and 3 for the 2008 growing season are eligible to vote, and any grower living within the two districts who has been a member/grower of MSGA for the last three consecutive years (as shown by signing an Application of Certification) may be elected to serve as director. The term of office for each director is three years. Primary election ballots will be on their way soon! The three candidates with the most votes in the primary election will then move on to the general election. Please be sure to cast your vote for a representative!



## Summary of 2008 Crop Season by Ron Larson

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Whenever I write one of these summaries, I am reminded again of the size of our state and how different conditions can be from one part of the state to the next. These comments are general, but the area in which you are located may indeed have experienced growing conditions different than those expressed here since precipitation amounts varied. That said, much of Montana experienced a very cool spring, followed by a relatively cool and short summer season, resulting in late harvest in many parts of the state. As of this writing I know some folks are just finishing small grain harvest (and our inspections are not all done). Some exceptional crop yields have been reported especially on winter wheat, and some good spring crop yields were also reported. However, in many areas of the state spring crops on dryland suffered due to lack of moisture and the cool spring. There were the usual hail storms in some areas which had a significant impact on yields, resulting in cancellations of some seed fields. The northeast corner of the state experienced relatively droughty conditions while other parts received those key moisture events that resulted in some very good dryland yields. Alfalfa seed growers are reporting some good yields this year. Lastly, an abundance of fall moisture has allowed for very good planting conditions for fall seeded crops in much of the state.

Our acreage increased by 21% this year over 2007. Interestingly, the number of applicants only increased by 11% indicating an increase in number of acres per application.

### Certification Acreage Summary

<u>Year</u>	<u>Acreage Applied For</u>	<u>Acres Cancelled</u>	<u>Acres Inspected</u>
2003	47,682	6644	41,097
2004	45,259	5513	39,746
2005	60,761	3205	57,555
2006	58,514	5859	52,655
	<u>Acreage Applied For</u>	<u>Acres Cancelled/ Rejected</u>	<u>Acres Passed</u>
2007	59,027	5747	57,425
2008	72,000 (Approx.)	*	*

\* All inspections not yet done as of this writing.

## SeCan Royalty Payments

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Notices will be sent out to contractors and growers of Harrington and AC Metcalfe barley requesting payment of royalty fees for SECAN varieties sold between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. The fee is 44 cents per bushel sold for Harrington barley and 77 cents per bushel for AC Metcalfe barley (for AC Metcalfe, fees are also due on seed a grower keeps and plants on his own land). If you have Harrington or AC Metcalfe seed from an earlier year which was sold for planting in the spring of 2008, the same rates apply and are due to MSGA. Please pay these fees promptly to ensure the continued availability of Harrington and AC Metcalfe barley seed. Royalty fees for the crop produced in the 2008 crop season will be **due in September of 2009**. Please contact the office if you have questions on what you owe. Next year's fees are not yet available, but SECAN has advised us they will most likely be going up. MSGA will have those figures available within the next couple weeks.

## SEED CONDITIONER AND HANDLING FACILITY TRAINING SCHOOLS

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This year MSGA will be co-sponsoring two training schools for those especially involved with seed conditioning and handling of certified seed, or who have plans to develop such a business. The first one will be offered in Williston, ND on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 18 & 19, and co-sponsored by the North Dakota State Seed Department and the Montana Department of Agriculture. This meeting will be offering educational seminars on seed cleaning equipment, principles of seed cleaning, state certification regulations, state and federal seed laws (sampling, testing and labeling), plant variety protection, seed diseases and stored grain protection. Additionally an equipment manufacturer and supplier trade show will be included, featuring seed storage equipment, seed handling equipment, and plant design and construction. I hope to offer pesticide recertification points to those who need them for seed treatment and stored grain pest control, at least for the Montana registrants.

The second choice is a Montana Seed Conditioning Clinic to be held in Great Falls Tuesday and Wednesday, January 21 and 22, 2009. This event will be sponsored by MSGA, the Montana Department of Ag., and the Montana Seed Trade Association. Although we do not have the agenda finalized for this event, the educational seminars should be similar with the addition of a presentation from the seed lab and possibly a combine cleaning clinic. This presentation will be at the Montana ExpoPark. MSGA will be sending out Registration Forms for the Great Falls clinic in November. Cleaning Plants and Handling Facilities are expected to send a representative to one of these clinics as part of the requirement for Certification of each facility this year.

Special thanks are due to Ben Larson, Richland County Extension Agent and Wade Crouch, Cascade County Extension Agent, for their help in securing these sites and offering ideas for these clinics. Feel free to call the MSGA office if you have questions regarding these clinics.

### **Please Turn in ALL Completed Bulk Certificates!**

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The Montana Seed Growers Association requests that you please turn in all completed bulk certificates that you may still possess regardless of weather or not the entire spreadsheet has been completed. We need to stay current in recording these sales and

your cooperation is greatly appreciated! They can be emailed to [hrimel@montana.edu](mailto:hrimel@montana.edu).



## **Bullish on SeedStocks..... The one that Won't Crash by Bill Grey**

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Pure seedstocks will grow when given proper care and investment, which is a lot more than can be said for the Wall Street Stocks. On an investors note, over these three years, our clients and that means you the Montana Seed Growers, have sustained our sales of foundation seed at roughly 1000 bu winter, 1000 bu spring wheat, 700 cwt of barley and 200 cwt of forage/hulled wheats. We appreciate your support of MSU breeders and the Montana foundation seedstocks, as I hope it will continue to be a solid investment for your business.

The prospects of MSU having a public “traded” (remaining with the market theme) malt barley are quickly becoming reality. Pending the successful taste test this fall and an approval by Amer. Malt Barley Assoc., Hockett will be worth watching on the seedstock market. The performance has been highly favorable under dryland conditions with consistent plump kernels and high yields. Other stocks of interest and a year from release, is a hard red winter from Phil Bruckner, MT0552. It has performed well under winter kill conditions and is resistant to the prevalent stem rust race. We are testing MT0552 in cooperation with NDSU at the notorious environment of Williston, ND.

Many of you noticed that MFSP prices saw a 23-25% increase this fall. Basically, this will cover our costs for fuel, fertilizer and herbicides. We are highly dependent on the dedicated staff at the MSU Research Centers to provide this valuable service and maintain high quality, pure seed standards. MFSP is using their labor, land and facilities to raise foundation seed and the seed sales support the centers' operations. MSFP has responded to your request that we package seed in the larger, baffle-type tote. This is an efficient method of handling seed and it does reduce our losses from damaged bags. If you still prefer the individual bushel bags, let us know on your application. We have also reduced the varieties and inventory that we keep on hand. If there is a unique or former variety, we can contract for that production and will require a deposit.

Visit the Montana Foundation web page for a link to “Small Grain QuickFacts” for Vida, Choteau, Outlook, Genou and Yellowstone. <http://plantsciences.montana.edu/FoundationSeed/> 2008 Fall seedstocks allocation:

Frank winter spelt, 40.0 cwt.

Genou, HRW, 362 bu.

Yellowstone, HRW, 607 bu.

Willow Creek, forage wheat, 80 bu.



## **Diagnostics and Testing. Submit Pulse Crop Seed for Testing by Mary Burrows**

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Get your pulse crop seed samples in now for Ascochyta testing. Montana State University's Seed Laboratory and the Schutter Plant Disease Diagnostic clinic test dry peas, lentils, and chickpea for purity, germination and seed borne Ascochyta blight. Ascochyta blight is a serious disease of chickpeas, lentils, and sometimes dry pea. It can cause up to 100% yield loss. We currently recommend a zero tolerance for Ascochyta in chickpea because of the high level of seed transmission for this particular crop. We also recommend using a seed treatment for chickpea, lentil and pea that contains thiabendazole (LSP, Mertect). Check labels for registration and dose.

Please get your samples in now to avoid a bottleneck in testing at the lab. The test takes 10 days. Contact the MSU Seed Laboratory at (406) 994-2141 for submission instructions and the amount of seed to submit. There is an additional fee for ascochyta testing.

More on Pulse crop diseases can be found at the High Plains IPM website at <http://highplainsipm.org/Crops/PulseCropsIndex.html>.

## From the Desk of Brent Sarchet - Montana Department of Agriculture

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Through its seed regulatory program, the Montana Department of Agriculture works to ensure that seed offered for sale in Montana is of the highest quality. The department strives to ensure that consumers get a quality product that is truthfully labeled. The department strives to accomplish this by licensing all seed dealers, seed labelers, and seed conditioners. Approximately one hundred facilities are inspected, and annually eighty, random seed samples are collected and sent to the Montana State University Seed Lab for analysis.

Who needs a seed license?

- a person who sells seed in packages that weigh more than 10 pounds
- a person who has more than \$1,000 in gross seed sales
- a Montana grower who has more than \$5,000 in gross annual seed sales



Who needs a seed labeler license?

- a person who has their name and address on the seed label
- a Montana certified seed grower who labels seed not of his own production
- a Montana grower who labels their own production, and has gross sales of more than \$5,000

Who needs a seed conditioner license?

- facilities located in the state that condition seed other than their own production
- portable facilities that come into the state to condition seed

Montana seed growers who have \$5,000 or more in gross seed sales from their own production may obtain one license that covers the seed dealer and seed labeler license. Montana certified seed conditioning plants authorized through Montana Seed Growers Association must obtain a seed conditioner license if they are conditioning seed other than their own production.

Contact the Montana Department of Agriculture with any seed licensing or labeling questions at 406-444-3950.



## Seed Lab News by Carli Lofing

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The Montana State University Seed Lab has received approximately 836 samples for the 2009 fiscal year. There are just a few reminders.

- To increase turn-around time the lab decided not to pre-chill any 2008 samples. By not prechilling samples, it causes higher levels of dormancy because the pre-chill normally breaks the dormancy in new seed. On the lab report the percent germination and percent dormant are added together to get total viable seed.
- If you are requesting a Western United States noxious exam (WUSA), please remember that our WUSA exam includes the following states: WA; OR; ID, MT, ND, SD, NE, KS, OK, TX, NM, AZ, UT, CO, NV, WY.
- This will be the default for the WUSA noxious exam unless you indicate otherwise.
- BSMV tests are performed in October and November. If you have a sample that needs this test please send it in now.

The MSU Seed Lab will be attending the MSGA seed school in Great Falls Jan. 20-21. If there are any topics that you would like to see the lab discuss feel free to let us know.

We look forward to continuing to serve you this fall!



## Montana Seed Growers Association

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“Look for the tag on the bag”

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If you would like to receive an  
electronic copy of the news letter  
please email [hrimel@montana.edu](mailto:hrimel@montana.edu)

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## Dates to Remember:

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November 4th:	Closed for election day
November 11th:	Closed for Veteran's Day
November 14-15:	MSU Ag. Appreciation Weekend-Bozeman
November 18-19:	MonDak Seed Conditioner's Clinic-Williston, ND
November 27-28:	Closed for Thanksgiving
December 3-4:	MGGA-Great Falls
December 9-10:	Winter Seed Trade Meeting-Helena
December 25-26:	Closed for Christmas
January 1st:	Closed for New Year
January 15-17:	Magie Trade Show-Great Falls
January 21-22:	Montana Seed Conditioners Clinic-Great Falls
January 30-Feb 1:	MABA-Great Falls
February 19-21:	MATE Show-Billings