



Notes & Quotes

M O N T A N A S E E D G R O W E R S A S S O C I A T I O N

Board of Directors

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

Staff

Ron Larson – Manager
(406) 994-5121
rlarson@montana.edu

Heather Rimel –
Program Coordinator
(406) 994-7372
hrimel@montana.edu

Tawnya Morgan –
Program Assistant
(406) 994-3516
tmorgan@montana.edu

If you have any bulk certificate reports please be sure to turn those into the office so we can keep our records up to date. Thank you.

P R O D U C T I O N F E E S N O W D U E

Production fees for seed harvested from all crops are payable within 30 days after harvest. Fees for the 2011 cropping season must be received by April 15, 2012. 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 (on large seeded crops). Contact the MSGA for cleanout questions on small seeded crops.

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.	

D I S T R I C T E L E C T I O N S

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 Lloyd Harris of Bozeman, and is comprised of Granite, Powell, Lewis & Clark, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Broadwater, Meagher, Park, Gallatin, Madison Beaverhead and Sweetgrass 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 2011 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 your representative!**

SEED LAB UPDATE BY RON LARSON

The passage of Senate Bill 195 in the last legislative session allowed for establishment of a Montana State Seed Lab Advisory Committee, with responsibility to make recommendations on seed labs fees and management issues to the Dean and Director of the College of Agriculture. The met in early August in support of the continuation and improvement of the lab and its operations to better meet the needs of producers and seedsmen. The committee is made up of representatives from the Montana Seed Trade Association, the Montana Seed Growers Association, Montana Grain Growers Association, Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and the Montana Department of Agriculture. Additionally, 3 ex officio members include Dr. Jeff Jacobsen Dean and Director, MAES, Dr. John Sherwood, Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology and Ron Larson, MSGA. The meeting began with Jeff Jacobsen as chair. The initial discussion centered around the constitution, by-laws, and terms of office for committee members. Bob Hodgskiss (MSGA) was elected chairman and Neal Bocksnick (MSTA) vice chairman. Voting members generally are elected to 3 year staggered terms, with the exception of the MDA representative, where the Commodity Services Bureau Chief is automatically the representative for boards such as this one. The other members attending this meeting were JonCee Kelley with MDA, Lola Raska (alternate for Chris Maloney) with MGGA, and Dave Wichman, MAES.

Discussion then focused on the need to raise fees in order to be able to hire personnel needed to improve turn-around time and efficiency in the lab. The decision was made to increase fees by 25% across the board, effective September 1, 2011. This increase was first requested of the State Department of Agriculture in 2008, but was not allowed at that time. This increase has allowed us to hire a part time program assistant who logs in samples organizes them for analysis, prepares lab reports takes phone calls, and performs other lab duties as needed. There is hope that increased fees combined with increased speed and efficiency would allow the lab to process more samples and generate enough extra funds to hire a full-time manager.

The urgency for hiring a full-time manager/lab analyst was discussed. Currently, there is not enough funding for such a position. So, at this point, management is to be handled on a more-or-less informal basis by the MSGA manager, with assistance from MSGA program coordinator.

The need for improved turn-around time for samples submitted to the lab was discussed at length, with possible ways to remedy the situation. One remedy was to hire the program assistant (Jessie) as described above. Other efficiency related items were also discussed.

Expectations of the Seed Lab Advisory Committee are that hiring of more personnel will improve turn-around time, with expectation that adequate training will be done for new hires to achieve this goal.

So far this fall the lab has had improved turn-around times that at least some of our customers have noticed and appreciated. Currently the lab is caught up with sample analysis work and hoping for more samples to facilitate continued employment and training for new people that have been hired.

W I N T E R W H E A T D A T A B Y R O N L A R S O N

As of this writing, most fields have been inspected for the 2011 crop year. Seed Crop yield and quality reports were a mixed bag generally, due to the cool, late spring, flooding issues, and disease issues that affected small grain crops especially. Yields were reported from good to poor on grain crops in general. After some record breaking spring moisture, much of the state experienced yield reducing dry conditions to finish out the season. There are reports of good yields on alfalfa seed, along with some flood damage to balance it out. Total acres applied for finally reached 60,524 acres. The season turned out better for the certification program than was thought possible in the early going of the season. Meanwhile, winter wheat planting for the 2012 crop appears well under way, even though seeding conditions are quite dry, definitely less advantageous than seed bed conditions a year ago. Hopefully, some moisture will be on the way soon. Plant diseases took their toll on yields this year for both winter wheat and some spring crops, with much depending on when and if crops were sprayed, and perhaps which chemistry was used.

With some of the disease issues in mind, we have included in this newsletter some of the latest variety trial results for winter wheat, as provided by Phil Bruckner and Jim Berg with the MSU winter wheat breeding program. Please remember that this is only one year's data so it may or may not tell the story about next year. It is safe to say that this data does give a perspective of the influence diseases had on the 2011 winter wheat crop, at least in the areas where these trials were conducted. It should serve as an indicator to help producers to be more pro-active in scouting their fields next year for these crop threatening issues. It will be interesting to see if next year is a continuation of these disease issues or if these problems sort of pass on into the historical record. By the way, the complete data summary for the 2010 crop season and earlier are in the Winter Wheat Performance Summary listed on the Montana Seed Growers Association website.

F O U N D A T I O N S E E D U P D A T E B Y B I L L G R E Y

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

MT Foundation Seed Program web page is the site to obtain price list, application for foundation seed, information on current and past varieties. The webpage allows us to update the availability of a variety and keep you current on new releases. Please use the application form or the electronic submission to apply for foundation seed.



Variety descriptions for Judee, Bearpaw and Duclair are located on : http://plantsciences.montana.edu/FoundationSeed/varietyrelease/2011/variety_release.htm

Update on the allocation of MSU varieties this fall:

Judee – HRWW 875.0 bu, Bearpaw – HRWW 588.0 bu, Yellowstone – HRWW 290.0 bu

A little history is always helpful in looking at the trends in sales of foundation seed. From 1999 to 2005, the spring wheat varieties dominated the sales at 1000 bu while the winter wheat varieties were half that number. Over the past 7 years, the foundation bushels of winter wheat varieties have steady climbed to an average of 1680 bu, while the spring wheat varieties have been fairly constant at 1330 bu per year. Over the long haul, the winter and spring wheat varieties, are roughly 1100 bu each in foundation seed. What's behind the sales numbers and averages? The short answer is an "improved variety". Genou and Choteau were released in 2004-05 as improved varieties to the expanding threat of the sawfly. Vida and Yellowstone, released in 2006-07, were significant yield improvements over the hollow stem varieties. Decade has the winterhardiness, stem rust resistance and yield advancement required for eastern MT and ND. The releases of Judee, Bearpaw and Duclair are the incremental advancements over the previous benchmark varieties. Yellowstone, Judee and Duclair will have little to no yield drag in those environments favored by stripe rust disease. And then the MSU barley varieties have improved performance under dryland conditions. Sales are steady at 450 cwt, a third belong to the malt variety Hockett and the remaining two thirds among Hays and Lavina. Keep in mind that the new improved variety, Duclair spring wheat, will be available this coming spring, 2012.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.AG.MONTANA.EDU/MSGA

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"

Attention Seed Lab Customers: Please note this time of year the Seed Lab is pre-chilling all new crop germination samples for 5 days to help break seed dormancy before the actual germination test is preformed. For questions call (406) 994-2141

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BOZEMAN, MT
PERMIT NO. 127

U P C O M I N G D A T E S

- October 11-13: Women Stepping Forward in Agriculture Symposium—Red Lodge
- October 15: SeCan Royalties Due
- October 15: North Dakota Research Fees Due
- October 20-22: NILE Rodeo & Stock Show—Billings
- October 28-29: MSU Ag Appreciation Weekend—Bozeman
- November 11: MSGA offices closed for Veteran's Day
- November 24-25: MSGA offices closed for Thanksgiving
- November 29-December 2: MGGG Annual Meeting & Trade Show—Great Falls
- December 6-7: Seed Trade Meeting—Helena
- December 11-14: Montana Wheat Export & Marketing Workshop - Portland, OR—Contact the Wheat & Barley Committee
- December 14: NPGA Pulse Day—Billings
- February 16-18: MATE Show—Billings
- February 22-23: MSGA Annual Meeting—Bozeman

