



Notes & Quotes

PRODUCTION FEES ARE NOW DUE

Its that time of year again folks, production fees for seed harvested from all crops are payable within 30 days after harvest. The first round of invoices have been sent. Fees for the 2017 cropping season must be received by April 15, 2018. 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	0.05/ bu on clean seed
Barley-Oats-buckwheat-peas-chickpeas-lentils	0.08/cwt on clean seed
Oil Seed types	0.12/cwt on clean seed

Perennial Crops-

All grass varieties	0.005/lb.
Perennial Legume crops	0.005/lb.
Fourwing saltbush	0.005/lb.

DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Ballots are being sent out for Directors for District 2, currently held by John McDonnell of Three Forks and comprised of Granite, Powell, Lewis & Clark, Madison, Beaverhead, and Sweetgrass counties; and District 3, currently held by John Wold of Laurel and is 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 & 3 for the 2017 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 year. The three candidates with the most votes in the primary election will them move on to the general election. **Please be sure to cast your vote for your representative!**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kirby Lohr-- President
Patrick Lake-- Vice President
John McDonnell
John Wold
Steve Grove
Bill Edwards
Ex. Officio: Mike Giroux Interim
Dept. Head

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John Wold will be retiring as a member of our Board of Directors and we would like to give him a special thanks for all his years of service.

FROM THE MANAGER

Heather Unverzagt- Executive Director MSGA

The 2016 crop year had quite a decrease in the number of acres applied for in certification that included large carryovers from previous years, increased prices and growing conditions. All of our inspections and harvest are completed for the year with winter crops already in the ground. MSGA had a little over 98,000 acres applied for this year with around 92,000 of those acres passing inspection. This is also the first year that spring wheat and winter wheat had almost identical acres applied for and only a 2.5 acre difference in passed fields.

As we look forward to our next growing season MSGA will be continuing to make changes to better assist our customers. We have been working closely with surrounding states in order to find the best way to streamline our application and inspection process. MSGA has been looking at several databases that will allow for online applications and more timely results. In the meantime keep checking our website as we have been in the process of updating forms and including auto fill. For those of you who haven't visited our site in a while, the address has changed to www.mtseedgrowers.org.

As always if you have questions regarding planting rotations, seed law, filling out paperwork, tags or anything else we might be able to help you with, please don't hesitate to call the office.



MARY BURROWS

Cropland disease. Think about long term disease control when planning rotations with pulse crops (17 October, 2017)

There has been some concern about the proposed new Risk Management Agency (RMA) dry pea type and lentil rotation statement that was developed in collaboration with plant pathologists in multiple states to help prevent disease buildup on pulse acres. The primary concern is that we have virtually no chemical or variety options for root rot control. Crop rotation currently is our only management strategy that will help slow the crisis they are experiencing in other pulse-growing areas. To give you some background, RMA's current dry pea type and lentil rotation statements do not allow and have not allowed for many years wheat/lentil/wheat/lentil or wheat/pea/wheat/pea rotations. The proposed new statement adds the change to not allow wheat/lentil/wheat/pea or wheat/pea/wheat/lentil rotations.

The proposed new statement that is planned to be put into effect for the 2019 crop year for dry pea types and lentils states 'Insurance will not attach to any acreage on which field peas (Austrian Peas, Forage/Feed Peas for Seed, Marrowfat Peas, and/or Smooth Green or Yellow Peas) or lentils were planted in either of the previous two (2) crop years or on which chickpeas or Fava/Faba beans were planted in the previous crop year. Chickpeas and Fava/Faba beans that were planted and then all plant growth is terminated by chemical or mechanical means prior to June 15, will not be considered planted for rotational purposes only. The insured is responsible to provide proof of insurability. This statement applies to field peas, lentils, chickpeas, and Fava/Faba beans grown either as a grain, cover crop, or in a cover crop mixture.'

MSU FOUNDATION SEED PROGRAM

Doug Holen-Program Manager

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



As MSU's Foundation Seed Manager, I've been in the position for 19 months already. This is significant in that 2017 was the first full year of planning, planting, harvesting and storing an entire growing season worth of production. One of the most valuable components of the tenure so far has been Montana's agricultural community. We've made it an objective to be visible and will continue doing so through statewide visits with seed partners, attendance at commodity conferences, media updates and news releases and an open phone policy. I also greatly value the networking with colleagues in surrounding states as the seed business has expanded far beyond our state borders. Rest assured our mission statement focuses first and foremost on Montana.

We continue to have a strong partnership with Havre's Northern Ag Research Center, Moccasin's Central Ag Research Center and Sidney's Eastern Ag Research Center in the production and promotion of Foundation Seed. They, in addition to large efforts at Bozeman's Post Farm are responsible for ensuring a constant supply of needed seed and are instrumental in distribution as well.

Lanning is our newest MSU release and has reached the point of available Foundation seed. A hard red spring wheat targeted to improve with quality (protein) on the traditional Vida acres. Breeder Luther Talbert and I have high expectations for Lanning and we were able to produce significant bushels available to seedhouses spring of 2018.

While the Variety Release Committee will gather in January to discuss the next releases, we are excited about a group of MSU winter wheats up for discussion. Breeder Phil Bruckner will introduce two new forage lines (MTF1432 and MTF1435) and grain variety MT1465 for possible advancement into the Foundation Program. Watch for updates and variety specifics to come early next spring.

As mentioned in last fall's article, we spent a considerable amount of time updating our Montana Foundation Seed website. I'm proud to say that project has been completed and I welcome you to visit. The site is listed on top of this article and includes updated lists of available varieties, variety quick facts, and other information specific to our program.

As always, please feel free to call on me anytime at (office) 406-994-5687, (cell) 406-404-5726 or douglas.holen@montana.edu. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at upcoming agricultural gatherings.

TAGS AND SAMPLES

We have been experiencing some delays with our mail lately, and unfortunately mail is taking more than a couple days to reach its destination. Please be proactive if you need tags, or bulk certificates. Please give us at least a couple days to get tags out to you, thank you.

SAMPLES

Please remember to properly package your pulses when sending samples in the mail. Many times we receive packages that have open bags inside of the box. Also shipping can cause pulses to split in half so please use newspaper, bubble wrap, or some other type of cushion to keep your seeds stationary in the package.

Tips:

Tape the top of Ziploc bags to ensure that the bag stays closed.

Refer to our Handbook of Seed Certification for proper amounts of seed needed for sampling.

*** Remember all lots of chickpeas and lentils must have an Aschochyta test done in order for MSGA to assign final certification and issue tags.**



MONTANA STATE SEED LAB

Greetings!

Be sure to take advantage of our special germination discount of 10% running in the months of November and December. Get a jump start into the 2018 season and relax through the holidays.

Just a reminder that sending the appropriate sample sizes will cut down on shipping costs. As always, be sure to take an accurate sample, mix well and cut down to the size needed for submission. Seed amounts for common samples can be found at our website: <http://plantsciences.montana.edu/seedlab/>.

Montana Seed Growers Association sample size requirements can be found at www.mtseedgrowers.org in the Handbook of Seed Certification Standards page 9.

We have seen some dormancy issues with wheatgrasses this season. Some of our dormancy breaking techniques include: KNO₃ – Potassium nitrate is a widely used chemical that breaks dormancy. It is thought that it increases a seed's sensitivity to light. Pre-chill – Three to five days in the pre-chill chamber set at 41° F under moist conditions may break the dormancy of many crops. GA – Gibberellic acid is a natural plant growth hormone. If recommended in the AOSA rules for testing seeds we will moisten germination blotters for samples suspected of deeper than normal dormancy. TZ – Following a germination test, a TZ test can be performed to evaluate dormancy.

The staff at the Montana State Seed Testing Lab looks forward to serving you. We hope you have had a prosperous year.

Bridget Westfall

Manager, Montana State Seed Testing Laboratory

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406-994-2141

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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