HELP US RENAME OUR NEWSLETTER

We want you to help MSGA come up with a new name for our newsletter. Historically MSGA’s newsletter has been called “Notes & Quotes” since 1912 when MSGA was formed. We feel that the name no longer represents our direction and objectives, and would like to update as we rebrand. Please submit your ideas to Rebecca Papke: Rebecca.papke@montana.edu The winner will receive some MSGA swag as a reward for the best name.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

Applications for certification of perennial crops and pulse crops are due May 25th. Those post marked after May 25th will be charged a $50.00 late fee, those post marked after June 15th will be assessed a $100.00 late fee. Applications for certification on all other crops are due June 15th. Those post marked after June 15th will be assessed a $50.00 late fee and a $100.00 late fee, for those post marked after June 30th.

FEES

The following MUST accompany the Application for Certification to the MSGA Office.

Annual Filing Fee/ Application Fee of $30.00 per application
Acreage Fee-Will be refunded on acres cancelled before field inspection.

All Crops: $2.50/Acre
With Exception of Canola and Field Beans $6.00/Acre

PRODUCTION FEES DUE

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 years. Additionally, foundation seed request for new MSU varieties may be denied if the previous year’s production fees have not been paid. Please call Heather Unverzagt if you have any questions on what you owe.
Managers Report
Heather Unverzagt

Considerations of Spring Seeding

Spring is here, or so the calendar says. Most of you are getting ready for planting and making your final seed purchases. As you are making those final seed choices be sure that the seed you are planting is legal to protect yourself and your farm. With the wet spring it looks as though there is going to be a shortage of spring wheat in some areas of the state. Generally the immediate reaction is to grab some out of your bin, which you assume might save you a bit of money in the long run. This is where you could be mistaken. Many varieties are under federal Plant Variety Protection (PVP) which does not allow you to sell (or trade) these varieties as common seed. So if your neighbor offers you a discount on seed please be very cautious. This is true even if the selling party says the variety is VNS, or Variety Not Stated. In the state of Montana it is illegal to sell wheat or barley (and other kinds) under the VNS title. Furthermore many varieties are now protected under a Certified Seed Only, or CSO agreement. This is a private agreement between the grower and the owner of the variety. The agreement prohibits the grower from re-planting their own seed due to an agreement that was signed between the growers and the seed dealer when the seed was purchased. Many of the private companies have this CSO agreement in place, so before you plant that seed, give us or your seed dealer a phone call. This will protect your farm in the long run as settlements are quite costly.

On a final note, when you are making your certified seed purchase make sure that before you leave the seed dealer, you are provided with a proper label. This will include a full lab analysis along with either a bulk certificate (sticker) or a hard seed tag. Both of these will have the MSGA logo on them stating that they are certified. If you are purchasing pulse crops ask for the disease report as well, as an ascochyta test is required by MSGA standards for both lentils and chickpea. MSGA also recommends a seed treatment, especially in years where the seed is planted into cool, wet soils. A list of all authorized certified seed growers and dealers can be found on our website.

To help you understand and recognize Plant Variety Protection (PVP), a list of small grain varieties is included in this publication. This is not a complete list of varieties, nor does it reflect any CSO varieties. For individual questions or additional PVP information/education please contact the MSGA office or your local seed dealer.

SEED RETAILERS

If you are a RETAILER of certified bulk seed you need to make sure that each sale is going out with a new Bulk Certificate. You must also be licensed through the Montana Department of Agriculture with a Labeling License as well as MSGA. If you have questions on this please contact the MSGA office.
IS YOUR SEED LEGAL?

The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) benefits the long-term interests of farmers by encouraging private sector investment in developing superior varieties that improve farmers’ net profits.

PVPA and Farmer Saved Seed

The PVPA prohibits the sale of farmer-saved grains for use as planting seed from protected varieties without permissions from the owner. Under Title V of the Federal Seed Act and PVPA, all the varieties listed below must be sold by variety name (No VNS or “brown bag” sales) as a class of certified seed. Seed produced from a protected variety cannot be conditioned, stocked, sold, offered for sale, reproduced, delivered, shipped, consigned, exchanged, imported, exported, or otherwise exposed for sale without authorization by the owner of the variety. Farmers are granted an exemption for which they can save seed from legally purchased protected varieties for the sole purpose of replanting their own land.

Custom Seed Cleaners and Elevators

Delivery of grain in exchange for a similar quantity of seed of a protected variety is ILLEGAL under the PVPA. Cleaning a customer’s protected variety and returning that same seed to the customer is legal as long as the initial seed was legally purchased, the varietal identity is maintained, and the seed is planted on the same customer’s land. It is a violation of the PVPA for a custom cleaner to condition seed for an illegal sale and custom cleaners can be penalized for doing so regardless of who sells the illegal seed.

Varieties listed have been in the MSGA certification program over the last 3 years. Note, this is not a complete list of PVP varieties. The complete list can be found at: https://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/pvp/pvplist.pl.

*Indicates varieties that are PVP Title V.

**THIS LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE CSO (CERTIFIED SEED ONLY) VARIETIES.

Updated 3/30/18

Montana Seed Growers Association
P.O Box 173146
Bozeman, MT 59717-3146
Phone: (406) 994-3516
Fax: (406) 994-1725

Barley
AAC Synergy*
ABI Voyager
Bestford
BG 46e
Bill Coors 100*
Champion
Claymore*
Conrad
Haymaker
Hockett*
LCS Saturn
LCS Vespa
Merit S7
Moravian 165
Stockford
Tradition*
Westford*
Oat
Streaker*
Durum
Alizada
Carpio*
Joppa*
Tioga*
Triticale
141*
Forage FX 1001*
HRSW
Alum*
Barlow*
Bolles*
Brennan*
Bulseye*
Cabernet
Chet*
Chevelle
Choteau*
Corbin
Duclair*
Egan*
Elgin-ND*
Expresso
Franz*
Kelby*
Lanning*
LCS Breakaway*
LCS Iguacu
LCS Iron*
LCS Powerplay
LCS Pro
NS Presser CLP
LCS Iron*
LCS Powerplay*
LCS Pro*
Mott*
NS Presser CLP
Oneal
Prestige
Redstone
Reeder*
Solano
SY 605
SY Basalt*
SY Coho*
SY Gunsmith*
SY Ingmar*
SY Rockford*
SY Rowyn*
SY Soren*
SY Sunrise*
SY Tyra*
SY Valda*
Vantage
Velva*
Vida*
Volt
WB9229
WB9411
WB9483
WB9518
WB9653
WB9668
WB 9879CLP*
WB-Gunnison
WB-Mayville
WB-Rockland
HW5W
Explorer*
WB-Idamax
WB-Pretea
WB7589*
SWSW
WB-1035CL+
HRWW
AP503 CL2*
Art*
Applications and Perennial Rollovers

With spring planting right around the corner get a jump start on those Applications for Certification and Perennial Rollovers. MSGA office will send out Perennial Rollovers sometime in late April. If you need applications, please contact the MSGA office and we will gladly send you some. Or you can download one from our website.

Application Check List:

1. **Seed Source Document:** This is required to verify that you have indeed planted a class of certified seed. We cannot process applications that do not have a seed tag that verifies the seed source.

2. **Maps:** Please include TWO quality maps of the field(s) to be certified. Google maps are preferred over FSA, as those can be difficult to make out. Also please outline the field with a highlighter or other ink that will help to distinguish which field is to be inspected. Labeling roads, landmarks, and entrance to fields on maps with GPS coordinates is also very helpful to the field inspectors.

3. **Field History:** Fill out the Table on the application for the last (3) years on each field that was planted. We will need 2017, 2016, and 2015 crop history on each application for certification. Planting dates are also very helpful to inspectors who use that information to prioritize fields that may be ready to inspect earlier than others. **Reminder:** Summer Fallow generally will not be accepted as a crop year between different varieties of the same crop species.

4. **Acreage Fees and Application Fees:** Make sure to send a check made out to MSGA for the amount of acres x $2.50 and don’t forget the $30.00 applications fee that is a flat rate on ALL applications.

5. **Signatures and Information:** Please verify that BOTH the Contractor and the Grower sign the application. We cannot process applications without both signatures. Also make sure to completely fill out the top portion of the application regarding the growers information. This information is very helpful to field inspectors and staff, especially for new growers.

6. **Late Fees:** Applications for certification of perennial crops and pulse crops will be assessed a $50.00 late fee if post marked after May 25th, and a $100.00 late fee if post marked after June 15th. All other applications will be assessed a $50.00 late fee if post marked after June 15th, and a $100.00 late fee if post marked after June 30th. Also until 2017 production fees are paid new applications will not be processed.

Field History

Make sure to double check the field history requirements for the crops you plant. The land history requirements can be found in the MSGA Handbook of Seed Certification Standards. The complete version is online for your Convenience.

Field Isolations

Remember to check specific field isolation standards for your fields. Each crop has different standards for isolation.

Special Cases

If you have questions on cert to cert, seedling inspections, or other special case fields please contact Heather Unverzagt at (406) 994-7372.
Montana Foundation Seed Program

Doug Holen

The 2018 growing season looks to start by testing all our agricultural senses including, anticipation, patience, excitement and caution.

We are in the middle of seed distribution season. Calls for MSU Foundation seed have been consistent focusing primarily on spring wheats and forage barley. Our new spring wheat variety Lanning will get a great chance to display its genetic potential this season with Foundation seed being planted across the state. Our forage barley varieties continue to have a strong demand in Montana as well as in surrounding states.

This season will be busy with Foundation seed production. Currently, the newly released forage winter wheat (MT1432/Ray) and grain winter wheat (MT-1465/FourOsix) are in the ground in addition to some Willow Creek. Spring’s planting season will focus on more Lanning, Vida, and Lavina. We also continue to partner with private industry to increase seed needed for supplying Montana’s producers. MSU’s Foundation seed production continues to center around the Post Farm west of Bozeman but includes fields in every direction from campus. In addition, critical production continues at the Northern (Havre), Central (Moccasin) and Eastern (Sidney) Agricultural Research Centers to aid in land requirements, storage, and distribution.

On a side note, MSU varieties continue the pattern of applying for Plant Variety Protection (PVP) with title V designations as stated by our release policy. This follows a common pattern seen regionally and nationally with both public and private companies. We are also currently working side by side with MDA, MSGA, Commodity groups and MT Seed Trade Assn. to strengthen efforts with PVP protection.

As always, please feel free to call on me anytime at (office) 406-994-5687, (cell) 406-404-5726 or douglas.holen@montana.edu. You can also visit our website: http://plantsciences.montana.edu/FoundationSeed/

Best Wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous 2018.

Board of Directors Meeting and Seed Standards Update:

Last month our annual Board of Directors Meeting was held in Bozeman. The Board would like to recognize Patrick Hensleigh who recently retired as the State Agronomist for USDA and past MSU barley breeding associate with Honorary Membership for his years of service and contributions to the seed industry. Pat retired from the USDA in December and we wish him well in his retirement.

Proposed standards were accepted by the MSGA Board for peas and chickpeas. The current Montana seed standards were out of tolerance with the federal standards and had to be brought into compliance. These new standards will be distributed next month and will go into effect May 1, 2018. If you have questions on these standards before they are sent out or posted to our website please contact the office directly. The crop history requirements will not change and should not affect planting considerations.

Lastly the MSGA Board is moving forward with rebranding. The current logo no longer reflects where MSGA is heading and in order to update we are looking into new logo options. The name of the newsletter is also changing. As mentioned on the first page we are looking for help. If you have any suggestions please let us know. Stay tuned to
Field Inspectors Wanted!

MSGA is looking to hire a few new field inspectors for the 2018 inspection season. With increasing acres in our certification program, we need a few more boots on the ground during the inspection season. We are looking for part time seasonal individuals who are available to work from mid June until mid September (season varies depending on growing conditions). The inspection season moves quickly and long hours are required occasionally in order to inspect fields in a timely manner. You will work closely with growers and contractors in order to determine the status of fields you will inspect. A field inspector training meeting is required and is usually held the first week in June. If this sounds like something you or someone you know would be interested in please contact Heather Unverzagt at hunverzagt@montana.edu or (406) 994-7372.