

July 2018



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A Quarterly Update from the Montana Seed Growers Association

# The Sprout

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Patrick Lake-Vice President (District 1)

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## *Yearly Reminders*

**Please take note of these yearly reminders. It is the GROWERS responsibility to make sure their fields get inspected. Please call and set up a time with your inspector at least two weeks before harvest. If the field is not inspected prior to harvest, no certification will be allowed on the seed from that field. Please contact the MSGA office (406) 994-7372 if you are unable to contact your inspector. Please plan ahead and keep your inspector informed on the readiness of your fields.**

### **Preparing For Field Inspection**

Please walk or scout fields to determine if acres are clean enough to pass inspection. Roguing may be required to pass inspection. Roguing before inspection will help avoid rejection and re-inspection fees associated with a second inspection.

### **NOTICE ON CANCELED ACRES**

Note: if you have a field you want to cancel from certification please let the field inspector know ahead of time to save the inspector a trip out to the field. Parts of fields may be canceled for partial refund of fees. Refunds will not be issued until all inspections are completed, usually in October

**ANY GROWER WHO CANCELS ANY FIELD BEFORE THE INSPECTION WILL RECEIVE A REFUND OF ACRAGE FEES FOR THE CANCELED ACRES.**

From the Executive Director >>>

Heather Unverzagt >>>

## Manager's Report

Montana Seed Growers Association has a new look, but it is still the same organization that has been serving you for 100 plus years. The MSGA staff and board of directors asked that a new logo be designed that will better reflect the organization as a whole. During this transition you will still be seeing our historical logo on field inspections, bags, envelopes and other correspondence, but we are beginning the process of switching over to the new design. You may also notice a new newsletter name. Many thanks to those of you who took the time to call, email, and text your ideas. The top three newsletter names were submitted by Steve Grove of Moccasin, Mitch Konen of Fairfield, and Larry Holzworth of Bozeman. After serious consideration by the board, "The Sprout," submitted by Steve Grove, was approved as the new name.

The 2018 growing season is progressing rapidly. As of the end of June there are over 94,400 acres in the program, with a few late applications yet to be processed. This number is just shy of the total acres last year, and once again we are seeing an increase in pulse crop acres. For the second year in a row there is a decrease in winter wheat acres, with the largest share of acres belonging to spring wheat. As we consider the upcoming harvest season, an important topic to consider is how to maintain varietal purity throughout the harvest process. Varieties are carefully maintained in the field, but how is that purity maintained for the customer at harvest time? We encourage growers to be diligent in cleaning out combines, trucks, and bins in order to continue to provide a quality product to the seed industry. Combine cleaning should be considered as the default management tool for all producers in our program. It is well within the farmer's right to ask your custom combiners to clean their machines prior to entry into your fields. If you are renting or borrowing you should do your own inspection on the combine, even if you are told the machine is clean. It is easier to spend the extra time in the field ensuring your equipment is uncontaminated than hope the seed cleaning process can remove impurities. Contact us at the office for a check-off sheet that can assist you in cleaning of equipment, or if you have any questions.

## Foundation Seed >> Doug Holen Montana State University >>>

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

Looking back not so long ago to when planting season finally arrived, crop conditions and growth stages seem quite good for the middle of June. Frequent and persistent rains have limited the number of days in which field activities can take place and the irrigation equipment is ready but not running on the MSU Post Farm outside of Bozeman

### FourOsix Hard Red Winter Wheat



With just my 3<sup>rd</sup> season ongoing, we are overseeing a couple hundred acres of foundation seed this year located around Bozeman, NARC-Havre, EARC-Sidney and the CARC-Moccasin. It is a perfect combination of some really promising new releases and steady demand for some of the traditional hay barleys and winter/spring wheats. The Foundation Seed Program is tightly linked to Montana agricultural production and any shifts outstate will see changes here. We constantly are trying to calculate what varieties are needed, demanded or on the way out in preparation of acres planted, harvested and seed stored and cleaned.

Foundation 'Lanning' spring wheat was well requested this spring by seed producers. Promoted as a 'Vida' replacement, it should have the acreage and geography to showcase its genetic potential. Anticipated for distribution this fall will be the 'Willow Creek' replacement 'Ray' forage hard red winter wheat and grain variety 'FourOsix' along the lines of 'Yellowstone' with less height and better stripe rust resistance.

It is an exciting time to be working closely with MSU plant breeders as the pipeline of new genetics is filling up and looks strong for the near future. I will be busy this summer overseeing acres planted, attending field days, continually communicating with producers, and moving our projects forward to service the seed producer needs.

As always, feel free to call on me anytime at (office) 406-994-5687, (cell) 406-404-5726 or [douglas.holen@montana.edu](mailto:douglas.holen@montana.edu). You can also visit our website listed above.

Best Wishes for a safe and successful 2018 growing season.

### Ray Forage Hard Red Winter Wheat



The seed license renewal cycle is upon us. The Montana Department of Agriculture Seed Program is currently working on issuing new licenses for the 2019 license year which runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

## What does the Seed Program do for you?

This program provides licenses to seed dealers in Montana in order to assure consumers that seeds offered for sale in Montana are truthfully labeled for identity, purity, and viability.

The following are the seeds included in this program

- Grass seed
- Forage seed
- Cereal seed
- Fiber crops seed<sup>2</sup>
- Pulse crop seed
- Mixtures of seed; and
- Any other kinds of seed commonly recognized within the state as agricultural seeds.

## How does the Seed Program ensure seed quality?

The seed program provides statewide regulatory services to the general public and specific agricultural industries. The program conducts inspections of seed facilities to assure compliance with licensing and labeling requirements, obtains random seed samples and submits them to the **Montana State University's Seed Testing Laboratory** in Bozeman for analysis.

The laboratory analyzes the samples for the following:

- Purity;
- Germination;
- Noxious weed seeds;
- Restricted weed seeds;
- Total weed seed content; and
- Seed from other crops.

The program then compares the results with the label to verify if the seed is within accepted tolerances and reports the results to the labeler.

All seed products must have proper and accurate labeling. If there are any problems the labeler will be contacted for resolution.

## Who needs a Seed License?

A seed license is required for the following:

- Any seed dealer distributing seed in Montana
- Any person whose name appears on the label as a seed labeler
- Any facility that conditions seed (portable and permanent)
- Any Montana producer selling their own production with a gross annual sales value of more than \$ 5,000.

If you have any question, please contact Bob Ballensky, Seed Program Manager at (406) 444-3950 or by email [bballensky@mt.gov](mailto:bballensky@mt.gov).

# Field Inspectors

Your Field inspectors work hard to ensure that all fields get inspected for certification. They work closely with growers and the MSGA office to help guarantee that everyone has a smooth and successful inspection season. Their contact information is listed below with the counties that they cover. Please contact your assigned inspector about the readiness of your fields.

**Richelle O'Leary**- (406) 788-2557

**Dawson Berg**- (406) 403-4220

**Larry Holzworth**- (406) 570-4238

Gallatin, Beaverhead, Madison, Park,

Broadwater, Jefferson, Silver Bow Counties.

**Brian Bedord**- (406) 590-9092

**Lisa Bedord**- (406) 590-9091

Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Fergus, Judith Basin,

Teton Counties.

**Erin Miller**- (406) 434-5943

**Thad White**- (814) 931-7758

Pondera, Glacier, Liberty, Toole Counties

**Red Lovec**- (406) 489-1593

Daniels, Dawson, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan,

Wibaux Counties.

**Mike Morgan**- (406) 853-2137

**Tom Davis**- (406) 853-2198

Rosebud, Treasure, Big Horn, Counties

**Pat Hensleigh**- (406) 570-5430

Native seed and grass seed expert.

**Elisha Otis**- (406) 861-0082

(Alfalfa, Grass, and Legumes) In Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Carbon, Musselshell, Golden Valley, Petroleum, Yellowstone Counties.

**John Ranney**- (406) 647-9184

(Small Grains) In Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Carbon, Musselshell, Golden Valley, Petroleum, Yellowstone counties.

**Roger Brookie**- (406) 654-4272

Hill, Blaine, Phillips Counties.

**Susan Engstrom**- (406) 765-8814

Valley, McCone, Garfield Counties.

**Brianna Bernhardt**- (320) 290-4793

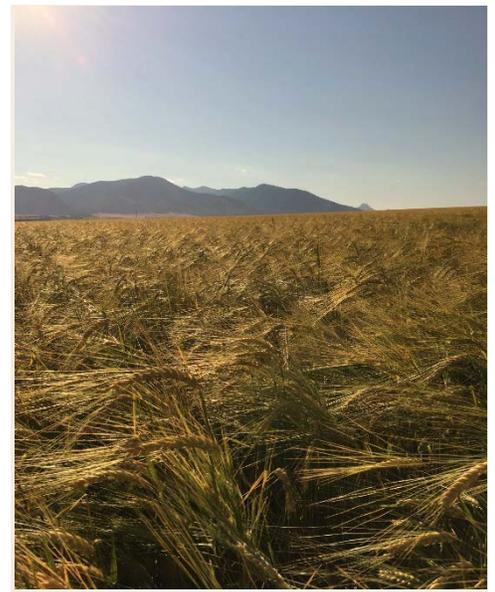
Chouteau County

**Roger Hybner**- (406) 951-3427

Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Sanders, Powell, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Deer Lodge Counties.

**Mary Nagle**- (406) 939-2108

McCone, Prairie, Fallon, Custer, Rosebud, Powder River, Carter Counties.



## Wild Oats in Grain Fields

**Attention** Growers of small grains. If there are wild oats in the field, they must be rogued out. The field inspectors will be reject fields estimated to have more than 5 wild oat plants per acre. Please Note that fields of tame oats containing wild oats of any amount will likely be rejected, since wild oats cannot successfully be removed from this crop by conditioning plants. A grower may have a field re-inspected, but MSGA reserves the right to charge a re-inspection fee.

**The best policy is to rogue all wild oats out of the field before the inspector arrives**

MSGA also reserves the right to require that certified growers swath parts of fields (or otherwise mark out such parts) that are declared non-eligible due to wild oats or other contaminates. Discovery of co-mingling of such areas with otherwise certified parts of the fields will be cause for rejection of whole fields. MSGA is determined that field inspection instructions will be followed as closely as possible.

## Preparing for Field Inspections >>>

### Roguing Of Fields

We try to include this item each year as a reminder of some basic preparations that needs to be done before field inspections. All fields should be rogued or scouted at least once for off-type plants and contaminating weeds before the inspector arrives. This also gives growers the opportunity to cancel fields before inspection and receive an acreage fee refund. Note: refunds will not be given if the inspector has to drive to your field before you cancel, unless you are only canceling part of the field.

Alfalfa fields should be basically free of Yellow and White sweet clover prior to inspection.

**NOTE: A count of more than 10 sweet clover plants per acre at inspection time is a basis for rejection of your alfalfa seed field.** Alfalfa and other legumes need to be in bloom for proper inspection. It is the growers responsibility to contact the inspector when the field in in bloom. Cereal grains and grasses must be in the ripening stage before inspections can be conducted in order to detect off-types and other contaminating crops. This is best done within 2 weeks of harvest (especially on small grains).

# Montana State Seed Testing Lab

## >>Bridget Westfall

Please join me in congratulating Richelle O'Leary on the passing of her Certified Seed Technician (CST) exam. In March, Richelle traveled to the Oregon State Seed Testing Lab and spent two days taking the exam. The first day was composed of the Purity written and practical exam. For the written portion the exam, the candidate is required to know the AOSA, Canadian, and ISTA rule essentials. The practical exam tests your knowledge of seed identification, separation, sample preparations and calculations. Day two found Richelle back ranking the condition of seedlings in the germination practical, followed by the written germination portion which includes various testing conditions and specific causes of abnormalities through the Tetrazolium test (TZ).

## So what is a TZ?

Well, a TZ is a biochemical test using triphenyl tetrazolium chloride. In the Lab we prepare 200 seeds for this viability test. Following recommended methods for each species we prepare the seed by either cutting it in half with a razor blade thereby exposing the embryo, poking a small hole through the seed coat or we do nothing at all and just let the seed absorb the solution. Samples are then placed in a warming oven for five to 24 or more hours depending on the species. When the TZ solution is exposed to respiring tissue it will reduce to formazan and the respiring tissues will stain red. During the evaluation we are looking for the viability of essential structures-root, shoot, scutellum, as well as mechanical damage, frost damage, and bruising to name a few. Staining patterns can also indicate seed deterioration. It is difficult if not impossible to determine if a certain percentage of these seeds will be abnormal in a germination test.

The AOSA rules that we adhere to list several reasons for taking advantage of the TZ test for determining the viability of a seed lot.

In the Montana State Seed Testing Lab TZ testing is primarily used to determine viability and dormancy. Keep in mind that a TZ test can also be used as a vigor test.

## MAES Field Days 2018

- NARC (Havre): Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>
- WTARC (Conrad): Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>
- NWARC (Creston): Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>
- CARC (Moccasin): Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>
- Arthur H. Post Farm (Bozeman): Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>
- EARC (Sidney): Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>
- WARC (Corvallis): Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>

## Cleaning and Handling Facilities Reminder

Please have your renewal paperwork turned in by July 1, 2018. As a reminder MSGA also needs a copy of all state licenses required to sell, clean, and label seed in the state of Montana. Your renewal paperwork is due every year, along with a yearly fee that must be paid in order to continue business as an approved cleaning and or handling facility for MSGA.

## MSU Extension Ag Alerts

If you haven't already it is the perfect time of the year to sign for MSU Extension Ag Alerts. This service gives you up to date information on pest, disease, soil, and many other useful updates. Sign up for free by going to <https://mtagalert.org/>.

## Harvest Photo Contest

We want you to submit photos of harvest, or of your fields this growing season to use on the cover of our seed directories for 2018. Please submit photos to [rebecca.papke@montana.edu](mailto:rebecca.papke@montana.edu). The winner will have their photo on the cover of the directory and will receive some MSGA swag with our new logo. So please take lots of pictures and send them in!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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