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. After July 15th there will be a $200.00 late fee per application.

Certification Fees

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

- **Annual Filing Fee/Application Fee**: $30.00/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
  - Industrial Hemp: TBD

Production Fees Due

Ideally, production fees are 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 requests for new MSU varieties may be denied if the previous year’s production fees have not been paid. The final round of invoices went out March 13th, but if you still have questions on what you owe, please contact the office.
Executive Director’s Report
Heather Unverzagt

Happy spring!
The snow is starting to melt off and folks are finally able to start thinking about their spring planting decisions. Seed is already being moved in several areas of the state. As you consider your decisions for the year, remember to check crop history requirements if you are planting for a class of certified seed. When in doubt-call the office. There are also a number of choices for seed treatment for most crops, so it is useful to be aware of disease potential for the area to be planted. MSGA highly recommends the use of seed treatments to protect your investment.

As I travel around the state a hot topic has been industrial hemp. With the new federal regulations industrial hemp is now a legal crop. The Montana Department of Agriculture has been working very diligently to define what the new state program will look like. For those of you familiar with the Montana Pilot program, the new program will be very similar with a few changes. If you have any interest in growing industrial hemp reach out the both our office and MDA for rules and regulations BEFORE you purchase seed or plant. Only certain varieties are on the MDA approved list. You will also need a hemp grower’s license from the MDA. If you choose to grow under the certification program there are strict guidelines to follow as well a separate pricing structure.

Jumping back a month, we held the annual MSGA Board of Directors meeting here in Bozeman. From that meeting came a few changes to the seed standards and business practices. I will briefly outline them, but for further details contact us at the office. Seed standard changes are uploaded to the website. Please print a copy for your individual standards books. If you would like a hard copy of the standard book let us know.

- Re-wording on small grains crop history standards. No changes to the actual standards but they were re-worded for clarification.
- Chickpea standards. Essentially the same as before, but chickpeas were separated out from the field pea standards.
- Industrial hemp standards. While we had a draft before we have updated these to reflect both national and state changes. We have also added a hemp grower guide to help the producer understand the big picture between the Montana Department of Agriculture and MSGA.
- Hybrid Canola standards. These were updated and the new version is on our website.
- Late Fees. All applications applied for after July 15th will now incur a $200 late fee.
- Conditioning and Handling facilities that fail to renew will incur a $50 late fee after the deadline and after August 1st will be forced to reapply-including the $100 application fee.

We wish you a successful season and are here to answer any questions you might have.

2019 MAES Field Day Details

- Thursday, June 27th, 3:30 at Northern Ag Research Center, Havre
- Wednesday, July 10, 8:30 at Central Ag Research Center, Moccasin
- Tuesday, July 16th, 8:30am at Eastern Ag Research Center, Sidney
- Thursday, July 18th, 11:30 at Northwestern Ag Research Center, Creston
- Tuesday, July 23rd, 8:00 am at Post Agronomy Farm, Bozeman
- Thursday, July 25th, 4:30pm at Western Ag Research Center, Corvallis
The 2019 growing season looks to start slowly again by testing all our agricultural senses including, anticipation, patience, excitement and caution. One huge overriding factor is almost all the state will begin the season with adequate soil moisture.

We are just beginning the seed distribution season as of last week. Calls for MSU Foundation seed have been steady focusing primarily on spring wheats (Lanning, Vida and Duclair) and outstate with forage barleys (Lavina, Hays and Haybet). Our newest spring wheat variety Lanning performed very well last year with the help of Mother Nature. It will have another opportunity to impress this season as a lot of acres will be planted as Foundation and Registered seed. Our forage barley varieties continue to have a strong demand in Montana as well as surrounding states.

This season will be busy again with Foundation seed production. Currently, the newly released grain winter wheat (MTS1588) and (MT1564) are in the ground in addition to FourOsix, Ray, MTF1435 and Willow Creek. Spring’s planting season will focus on our new malt barley variety MT124112 along with more Lanning, Hays and Lavina. 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.

In addition to our Foundation seed production efforts, we have been planning the remodeling and updating of our seedhouse and cleaning facilities at the Post Farm. Efforts include adding some needed cleaning equipment, electrical, ventilation and lighting improvements, removing obsolete equipment and reorganizing grain flow. The most exciting component will be adding a gravity table to process current crops and focus on pulses as that MSU breeding program ramps up.

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 listed above.

Best Wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous 2019.
2019 Certification Season

Applications and Perennial Renewals

2019 is upon us and with the new year brings old reminders to start thinking about your 2019 fields and perennial renewals. The MSGA office will send out Perennial renewals in the mail sometime in April. These need to be signed, and returned with correct payment for the year. If you are not planning on using your perennial fields for production, the office will still need you to send in your paperwork stating such. This way we know if the field is resting or if the field has been plowed out.

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 to FSA, as those can be difficult to read. Also please outline the field with a highlighter or other ink that will help distinguish which field is to be inspected. Labeling roads, landmarks, and entrances 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 as planted. We will need 2018, 2017, and 2016 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 application fee that is a flat rate on ALL applications.

5. **Signatures and Contact 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 contact information. This information is very important 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. **After July 15th there will be a $200.00 late fee per application.**

Definition of Classes of Certified Seed

**Breeder** seed is seed directly controlled by the originating or sponsoring plant breeding institution, or person, or designee thereof. As applied to certified seed, breeder seed is the source for the production of seed of the other classes of certified seed.

**Foundation** seed is seed which is the progeny of breeder or foundation seed produced under control of the originator or sponsoring plant breeding institution, or person, or designee thereof. As applied to certified seed, Foundation seed is a class of certified seed which is produced under procedures established by the certifying agency for the purpose of maintaining genetic purity and identity.

**Registered** seed shall be the progeny of Breeder or Foundation seed handled under procedures acceptable to the certifying agency to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and identity.

**Certified** seed shall be the progeny of breeder, foundation, or registered seed so handled as to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and identity, and which has been acceptable to the certifying agency.
Success with the legislature

Many thanks for your support this year with the legislature. Securing funding for the Montana State Seed Testing Lab will make it possible for us to maintain our current staffing (manager, two analysts, one program manager and a handful of student employees). If funding is secured, we will be exploring educational opportunities, viability testing, new tests which could be implemented and equipment upgrades. As always, nothing is guaranteed but things are looking good.

Consider submitting your samples as soon as possible. Snow is melting quickly and the robins have arrived, soon you will be planting.

Best wishes for the upcoming season.

Montana State Seed Testing Lab – Bridget, Faye, Richelle and Rachael

Meet your Board of Directors for 2019

Pictured left to right: Steve Grove Dist. 4, Bob Hofman Dist. 2, Terry Peters Dist. 3, Bill Edwards President Dist. 6, Jack Lake Dist. 1, Cavin Steiger Vice President Dist. 3, Mike Giroux Ex. Officio Interim Department Head of MSU Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology.

Montana Seed Growers Association is a proud sponsor of the State FFA Agronomy Contest
Harlem Seed Show 2019 Results

The 2019 Harlem Seed Show took place March 14-16 in Harlem, MT. The seed show has been around since 1949 and showcases seed lots from producers from all over the State. This year’s certified seed class winner was Treasure State Seed with a Hockett Barley sample. Treasure State’s Hockett Barley also won the overall grand champion seed lot for the entire show. ClearView Seed won the registered seed class with a lot of CDC Orion chickpeas. There were 39 total entries in this years seed show.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Montana State FFA convention in Bozeman, MT April 3rd-6th
- Applications for Perennials and Pulses are due to the MSGA office by May 25th
- Applications for all other crops are due June 15th
- Summer Seed Trade Meeting 2019 June 17th-20th in Bozeman, MT