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Summer 2019

A Quarterly Update from the Montana Seed Growers Association

# The Sprout

## Board of Directors 2019

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Terry Peters (District 5)

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Mike Geroux-Interim Ex. Officio

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[Nancy.cooke@montana.edu](mailto:Nancy.cooke@montana.edu)

(406) 994-3516

Alexis Clingingsmith-Intern

## 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 ACREAGE FEES FOR THE CANCELED ACRES.**

# Foundation Seed

## >>Doug Holen



**Montana State University >>**

It seems that spring slipped passed quickly as we acknowledge June and the summer that follows. Our Foundation seed planting on and around the MSU campus concluded May 17<sup>th</sup> which seems remarkable for not starting until the 6<sup>th</sup>. At this time everything looks good thanks to cool temps and adequate moisture. We continue to make improvements to the Montana Foundation Seed Program which includes genetics of course but also encompasses land, equipment, and facilities. The best improvement this spring was the addition of people. Our program now has another full time position which was filled by Abigail Lake. Her biography follows:

Hello! My name is Abby Lake, and I recently graduated from MSU with degrees in Literature and Philosophy. I grew up in Lake County on the Lake Seed, Inc. farm, experiencing first-hand the perpetually innovative and precision-demanding nature of contemporary agriculture. I have been working for the Montana Foundation Seed Program with Doug Holen since February of 2017 and after graduation moved to a full-time position in the program. Working with Doug has enlivened the details of the process in which I grew up, and I am grateful to be a part of the diverse and skilled team of researchers and workers at Montana State University. I hope to uniquely contribute to this team with my humanities training and promote interdisciplinary collaboration between land and language, all the while assisting in the production of high-quality seed and the smooth running of the Foundation Seed Program.

Alexis Clingingsmith also joined us for the summer after recently graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Plant Sciences as a MSU student this May. Alexis is a native of Belgrade but has extensive travels across Montana with her early college career in Glendive. She has agricultural experience working with the Allan Dyer Pathology Lab and as a summer intern on the EARC in Sidney. She will work with us while also contributing largely as a field inspector to the Montana Seed Grower Association and managing logistics with her family's local organic plant business.

This season is exciting for us as we have multiple first year Foundation seed production fields of brand new varieties. This includes 'Bobcat' and 'Flathead' winter wheat and 'Buzz' malt barley. We are in the second Foundation production year of 'FourSix' and 'Ray' (forage) winter wheats and third season of 'Lanning' spring wheat. Close partnership with the breeding programs has us actively engaged with the 2019 Breeder seed production of winter and spring wheats, durum and green peas.

We are calendaring in dates for travel this summer which include working visits to the NARC, EARC, and CARC Field Days that include seed grower/seedhouse visits while in the areas. We also have volunteered the seedhouse to host the Post Farm Tour lunch on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have some new processing equipment on display.

As always, feel free to contact me 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 for variety availability and descriptions.



# The Montana Department of Agriculture

## >>Bob Ballensky

The Montana Department of Agriculture's Seed Program is in the midst of its seed license renewal period and is also approaching the period where out of state seed labelers are required to pay their annual seed assessment fees.

The Department's seed license types are as follows:

**SEED DEALER--** Any person who sells agricultural seed shall license each place where seed is located or sold.

**SEED LABELER--** Any person whose name and address appears on the label of agricultural seed sold in Montana. A current copy of your seed label is required before this license can be issued.

**SEED CONDITIONING PLANT--** All facilities (portable or permanent) located in the state that condition agricultural seed shall obtain a license for each facility.

**MONTANA SEED GROWERS--** Any Montana grower who sells, labels or sells & labels only seed of that grower's own production with a gross annual sales value of \$5,000 or more.

Additional information about the licenses, license fees, and assessments can be found on the Departments website <https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/Seed> or you may contact me for assistance.

It is helpful to remember that all seed sold in Montana is required to be properly labeled. Seed labels must contain the following information:

- Name and address of the seed labeler
- Lot number
- Name of the kind and variety
- State or foreign country for each named seed
- Percentage by weight of all weed seeds
- Percentage by weight of all other crop seeds
- Percentage by weight of inert matter
- Viability information for each named seed
- Calendar month and year the germination test was completed

All seed labels are required to contain the Alternative Dispute Resolution statements as follows:

### NOTICE

### ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION REQUIRED BY STATE LAW

Under Montana agricultural seed laws, alternative dispute resolution is required as a prerequisite to maintaining a legal action based upon the failure of the agricultural seed to which this notice is attached to produce as represented. The consumer shall file a complaint along with the filing fee, when applicable, with the Director of the Department of Agriculture allowing sufficient time to permit inspection of the crops, plants, or trees by the designated agency and the seller from whom the agricultural seed was purchased. A copy of the complaint must be sent to the seller by certified mail or as otherwise provided by state law.

The department has issued several new seed dealer and labeler licenses for entities selling hemp seed. Hemp is defined as an agricultural commodity in Montana and is required to be labeled in the same manner as cereal grains and pulse crops.

Montana's seed industry has become more diversified and complex. Please contact the department for any questions regarding seed licenses, assessments, labeling, PVP, or all other seed related issues. We are happy to help!

# 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.

**Rebecca Papke:** (406) 261-0070

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

**Alexis Clingingsmith-** (406) 209-7692

Gallatin, Beaverhead, Madison, Park, Broadwater, Jefferson, Silver Bow Counties.

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

Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Fergus, Teton Counties.

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

Pondera, Glacier, Toole Counties

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

Judith Basin

**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

**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 and Liberty Counties

**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.

## 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 is 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).

## 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.

# MSGAG Field Inspectors 2019



Inspectors: Back Row: (left to right); Larry Holzworth, Tom Davis, Roger Brookie, John Ranney, Brianna Bernhardt, Abby Lake (MSU Foundation Seed), Mary Nagle, Susan Engstrom. Front Row: Red Lovec, Roger Hvbner, Alexis Clingingsmith, Erin Miller, Lisa Bedord, Thad White.

## When to call your inspector

A good rule of thumb is to contact your inspector when you first receive your paperwork back from MSGA with your assigned inspector. This way you and your inspector can start a line of communication which will insure that your fields are inspected at the appropriate times.

### Perennial Crops

**1<sup>st</sup> year:** First year perennial fields will need 2 inspections the first year. 1<sup>st</sup> inspection is at the seedling stage. 2<sup>nd</sup> inspection at the time of flowering/pollen shedding.

**Perennial crops subsequent years:** 1 inspection at the time of flowering/pollen shedding.

### Annual Crops

**Small grains:** 3-4 weeks before harvest or when the field is ripe/turned.

**Legumes:** When the field starts to flower

**Safflower:** When the field is flower

**Flax:** When the field starts to flower

If you have questions on when to have your field inspected please call your inspectors or the MSGA office when you receive your application paperwork back.

## Cleaning and Handling Facilities Reminder

Please have your renewal paperwork turned in by July 1, 2019. 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. There will be a \$10.00 late fee added to the renewal fee after July 1<sup>st</sup>. After August 1<sup>st</sup> the facility will have to re-apply as a MSGA approved cleaning/handling facility and pay \$100.00.

## A note about CoAxium wheat varieties

The owner of the variety requests an Additional Certification Requirement as a condition of eligibility for final certification. All CoAXium Wheat Production System seed lots must be submitted to a CoAXium Wheat Production System Certified Seed testing lab and pass the AXigen Trait Test prior to its sale and distribution as Foundation, Registered, or Certified seed to confirm the acceptable, minimum herbicide tolerance level of 92% to Aggressor herbicide.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Montana Seed Growers Association  
MSU-Marsh Laboratory  
P.O. Box 173146  
Bozeman, MT 59717-3146