Board of Directors

- Jack Lake (District 1)
- Bob Hofman (District 2)
- Cavin Steiger (District 3)
- Steve Grove (District 4)
- Terry Peters (District 5)
- Bill Edwards (District 6)
- Mike Giroux-Interm Ex. Officio

MSGA Staff

- Heather Unverzagt-Executive Director
  hunverzagt@montana.edu
  (406) 994-7372
- Rebecca Papke-Certification Manager
  Rebecca.papke@montana.edu
  (406) 994-5121
- Nancy Cooke-Office Manager
  Nancy.cooke@montana.edu
  (406) 994-3516

**MSGA wants to wish all our associates a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.**

**Board of Director Election Results**

The final votes have been tallied for districts 4 & 6. We want to thank everyone who voted for our great candidates. Congratulations to Steve Grove (District 4) from Moccasin, and to Bill Edwards (District 6) from Lindsay. We are excited to have these two board members for another 3-year term.

**MSGA Board of Directors Meeting 2020**

The MSGA Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting Tuesday and Wednesday, February 11th and 12th, 2020, in Bozeman, MT. If you have comments or concerns that you wish to have discussed, feel free to call your district’s elected board member or the MSGA office. Board member’s contact information can be found on the MSGA website at www.mtseedgrowers.org.
We here at MSGA would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our customers and associates for your cooperation in the seed certification process this year.  2019 was a busy year here at MSGA, with all the usually yearly tasks we also put on two seed schools for MSGA associates.  One school was held in Sidney, MT and the other in Great Falls, MT.  Topics included: intellectual property, buying and selling seed, numerous talks from the MDA as well as pesticide training.  Going forward we would like to do these meetings again on a more consistent basis.  If you were unable to attend the meetings and would like more information please contact the office and we would be happy to give you some educational materials.  With this year ending and a new one soon to start, we will be taking time over the holidays to spend time with our families.

We will be open intermittently between Christmas and New Years and will return to normal office hours starting the 2nd of January. If you need anything while we are gone from the office feel free to contact Heather or Rebecca via email or our office lines.

We are excited to start another year and certification season with all of you.

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Montana State Seed Testing Lab

>>Bridget Westfall

Please take note that your seed tags must contain the same wording as the Montana Department of Agriculture sample tags, which can be found: https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/Seed. Tags cannot be abbreviated should say Pure Seed NOT Purity or just Pure. Another commonly seen mistake is having an abbreviated Crop or Weed listing rather than Other Crop and Weed Seed as it needs to be. So check your tags and make sure they have the same wording as the Department of Agriculture's example on their website.

Best Wishes for this Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Get those samples in early!
Bridget, Rachael, Faye, and Richelle
Planning for Spring Seeding

Even though it is only December, it is a good time to start thinking about your cropping rotations and possible options for spring seeded crops. Make sure to check and double-check MSGA’s specific land history requirements for all fields before planting for the 2020 growing season.

Field Peas cannot be planted on land that has grown the same crop in 2 cropping years for Certified, 3 years for Registered, and 3 years for Foundation.

Chickpeas cannot be planted on land that has grown the same crop in 2 years for Certified, 3 years for Registered, and 3 years for Foundation.

Small Grains A crop of small grain or flax will not be eligible for certification of Certified or Registered class if planted on land where the same kind of crop was grown the previous year unless that crop was of the same variety and class and passed field inspection. Foundation class: The previous crop must have been a different crop kind, followed by 2 successive years of summer fallow, or produced a Foundation class of the same variety the previous crop year. One year of summer fallow will not be accepted as a crop year between different varieties of the same crop species (kind).

Please call the MSGA office with questions on land history requirements.

MSC Website
Visit the MSGA website for the 2019 All Crop Directory and other certification documents. If you would like a printed hard copy please call the office and we will get one mailed to you.

Choosing a modern, high yielding and disease resistant variety that is adapted to your growing environment is one of the best management decisions you can make. A 30% yield difference between the best and the worst variety typically occurs at any given location in most any year, and these trends are repeatable over time. These 2 new released varieties (Lanning and Northern) have excellent agronomic characteristics as well as superior milling and baking qualities. Keep our overseas customers in mind as quality drives our market.

For more info:
http://plantsciences.montana.edu/foundationseed/quickfacts/

Figure shows the proportion of acres planted in Montana for Winter Wheat, Spring Wheat, Durum Wheat and Barley. By variety, Warhorse represents the largest proportion of Winter Wheat planted (28%), Vida for Spring Wheat (23.8%), Alzada for Durum (22.8%), and Metcalfe for Barley (21.3%). Most prominent changes from 2018 to 2019 are with Durum Wheat and Barley varieties. Alzada planting increased from 9.4% in 2018 to 22.8%, surpassing the previous year’s top variety Joppa, which decreased from 45.5% to 20.9%. Metcalfe plantings also experienced a decline from 52.1% in 2019 to 21.3% in 2018.

Study Done in collaboration with MSU Department of Agricultural Economics
For detailed regional information visit our website for the full study: https://www.usda.gov/rd2/static/directory/ardc/area/county-variety

If you would like to participate in this survey please contact noel@mt.gov
I can’t say I’m disappointed to see 2019 quickly pass by as we approach 2020 with new enthusiasm. Like most of the state, harvest and winter wheat planting conditions here were not optimal but the bins filled up and what had to get planted did. Based on recent conversations with seed producers, I believe the MSU Foundation Seed Program was fortunate that this season wasn’t more problematic.

The focus now is on getting current on paperwork. At the same time, we have begun to overhaul the cleaning plant located at the Post Farm. A lighting project was completed in late October and now we begin phase II which is taking out materials that aren't needed anymore and re-doing elevated work areas with better flooring. The next stage will be the addition of grain legs, redirecting clean grain outside, and a ventilation upgrade. Finally, we will incorporate new cleaning machines into our plant including a gravity table purchased and donated by the Montana Seed Grower Assn. Our plans are for a finished project in time for late winter use allowing the cleaning of all crops much more efficiently and safer. Hopefully, the next newsletter announces that we are again fully functional and open to any visits.

January will bring another meeting of the Variety Release Committee. This year's discussion from MSU will include a couple of new winter wheat lines, a durum selection and possibly a spring wheat variety. Breeder seed of these plus Dagmar spring wheat was harvested this fall.

Bobcat winter wheat was in high demand this past fall and we got out every bushel of Foundation seed that was produced. While I couldn't meet the demand for a first-year variety, many more Foundation acres were planted for 2020. Buzz barley is the other frequent call and we produced 25 acres of Foundation seed in 2019. That seed will be allocated to seed growers as well as maltsters for exploring the new malt variety in their operations.

I look forward to talking with many of you this winter at meetings, phone conversations and our next traveling tour to facilities across the state.

Wishing you a safe and economically sustainable 2020.

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

---

**Production Fees for 2020**

Please remember that production fees must be paid on all seed that was field inspected. MSGA will be sending out a second round of statements for those of you who have not paid for production yet. Production can be calculated without cleaning seed. Simply deduct 10% for the cleanout amount and pay on that quantity. For prices please refer to the Handbook of Seed Certification, the Directory, or look online at www.mtseedgrowers.org. Production fees must be paid no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Upcoming Meeting and Events**

- **January 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>** Crop Pest Management School Bozeman, MT
- **January 22-24<sup>th</sup>** MABA & MGEA Conventions Great Falls, MT
- **February 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>** Montana Soil Health Symposium Billings, MT
- **February 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>** MSGA BOD Meeting Bozeman, MT
- **February 20<sup>th</sup>** Alfalfa Seed Growers Meeting Billing, MT
- **February 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>** MATE Show Billings, MT