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Spring 2020

A Quarterly Update from the Montana Seed Growers Association

The Sprout

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Steve Grove (District 4)
Terry Peters (District 5)
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Applications For Certification

Applications for certification of perennial crops and pulse crops are due May 25th. Those submitted AFTER May 25th will be charged a \$50.00 late fee. Those submitted after June 15th will be assessed a \$100.00 late fee. Applications for certification on all other crops are due June 15th. Those submitted after June 15th will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee and a \$100.00 late fee for those submitted after June 30th. **After July 15th there will be a \$200.00 late fee per application.**

Certification Fees

The following fees will still apply to all applications submitted online.

Annual Processing Fee/Application Fee	\$30.00/application
Acreage Fee- (will be refunded on acres canceled before field inspection)	
All Crops:	\$2.50/acre
Except for 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 on March 31st, but if you still have questions on what you owe, please contact the office.

**Montana Seed Growers Association is a proud sponsor
of the State FFA Agronomy Contest**

Update from the MSGA Office

Happy spring everyone! There have been many changes happening not only with MSGA but with the whole country. We have been working hard to keep you all supplied with tags, bulk certificates, and any other certification needs you may have during the COVID-19 outbreak. We want to thank you for your patience as we are working through this situation. We have been trying to protect all our staff by limiting our exposure to each other. With that out of the way, I want to update you all on the new MSGA database. We have been working continuously with our database developer to keep things moving forward. We will be live soon and will be working on getting you all trained. Our biggest hurdle to start will be getting everyone to log on to the new site and get rolling on applications for certification. Once we tackle that I feel that the rest will come easily as we work through the 2020 certification year. The application portion of the database is very straight forward and should be easy to use. Another thing to keep in mind is that we are only asking for the same information that we have always required. You will use a mapping tool in the database to draw your fields, and you will upload a picture of your seed source document. We will be putting together some virtual training to help you all navigate the new system. Growers will still be responsible for getting their fields inspected, but contractors will be doing most of the applications. We will still have you call your field inspectors when you need an inspection. You will receive all the confirmation through email. This first year we will also send out a hard copy in the mail to make sure everyone is getting their paperwork. Late fees will be assessed on a case by case basis this year as the learning curve might cause some late applications. We still ask that you all do your best to get applications in as soon as possible. To make the application process easier I suggest that you gather all your information on the printable application when you contract with your growers. That way you will already have your information ready to input into the database. Perennials: We will send out your list of perennial fields that were in the program last year. But you will then need to enter those fields into the new system this first year. We will move to electronic signatures as well, so whoever applies will check a box that will count as the signature. It will be the applicants' responsibility to ensure that the grower is aware of their obligation to have their fields inspected at the appropriate time before harvest. The new system will be invoicing you as you apply for your fields. We all want to thank you for continuing to work with us and be flexible as we switch over to the new system.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Papke

Certification Manager, MSGA



Meet your Board of Directors for 2020

Pictured left to right: Cavin Steiger District 3, Bob Hofman District 2, Steve Grove District 4, Terry Peters District 5, Bill Edwards District 6, Jack Lake District 1, Mike Giroux Ex. Officio Interim Department Head of MSU Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology.

MSGA Board of Directors Meeting Update

The 2020 MSGA BOD Meeting was held in Bozeman on February 11th and 12th. The highlights from the meeting are as follows. The BOD decided to get rid of the five dollar handling fee for out of state seed samples. The BOD also removed the Barley Stripe Mosaic testing requirement for all out of state barley seed lots. MSGA will continue to require that all foundation classes of barley be tested. The second day of the meeting consisted of industry discussion and updates. The 2021 BOD meeting will be held in Bozeman February 2th and 3th.

2020 Certification Season

Applications and Perennial Renewals

2020 will bring many changes to MSGA. This year we will be sending out renewals the same way we have in the past, but there will be changes to how you submit them back. You will need to use MSGA's new database to apply for your fields for 2020. The program will assign new numbers to your fields and we will no longer have our traditional numbering system. The new application process is completely online and you will not be sending in paper applications. MSGA will be working on a training slideshow to help you apply for your old and new perennial fields for the 2020 inspection season.

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. You will now upload a picture of your seed tag or bulk certificate when you apply online.
2. **Maps:** Maps will now be made using the mapping tool in the new program. The mapping component uses Google maps, you will simply need to find your field and draw the map. There will still be a place to enter your legal description.
3. **Field History:** There will be a place for you to fill out your cropping history online. We will need 2019, 2018, and 2017 crop history on each application for certification. Planting dates are required and 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:** You will now get an invoice once you submit your applications online. Your invoice will be for your total acres x \$2.50, and the \$30.00 application fee will still apply.
5. **Signatures and Contact Information:** With this new system we will require an electronic signature when submitting the applications. If you are a contractor you will sign for your grower and by doing so take responsibility for informing them of the application for certification. The grower will still receive a copy of all applications and field inspections in their name via email. **Note:** we will still be sending out hard copies to make sure everyone is receiving the correct documents.
6. **Late Fees:** This year MSGA will use its discretion with late fees. With the last-minute launch of the database, we understand that applications may be late. That being said we still expect you all to try your hardest to make the deadlines that are in place.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

2020 MAES Field Day Details

- **Thursday, June 25th, 3:00 pm at Northern Ag Research Center, Havre**
- **Tuesday, June 30th, 3:00 pm at Southern Ag Research Center, Huntley**
- **Thursday, July 9th, 11 am at North Western Ag Research Center, Creston**
- **Tuesday, July 14th, 8:30 am at Central Ag Research Center, Moccasin**
- **Thursday, July 16th, 9 am at Eastern Ag Research Center, Sidney**
- **Wednesday, July 22nd, 8 am at Post Farm, Bozeman**
- **Thursday, July 30th, 4:30 pm at Western Ag Research Center, Corvallis**

Visit the MSGA webpage for new materials and all the current seed standards at www.mtseedgrowers.org

Montana State University >>> Foundation Seed Update

>>Doug Holen



WEBSITE – www.plantsciences.montana.edu/foundationseed

The winter of 2019/2020 was a fast one as we have transitioned to full-scale seed distribution. The past three months have seen several changes at the Post Farm's Foundation Seed Plant and Seedhouse. As a visitor said this spring, it now resembles a commercial operation. We added lighting throughout and upgraded the electrical system in addition to tying in the new gravity table (donated by the Montana Seed Growers Association) and a complete overhaul of the ventilation system. Probably the biggest change is the ability now to load clean grain into trucks either inside or out. The changes have dramatically increased our efficiency, quality control, and safety. For the first time in my tenure, we will be running sainfoin and alfalfa through the main plant this summer.

April brings about some excitement as the field selection is finalized for this year's production. We will have the new semi-solid spring wheat 'Dagmar' growing for its first season in Bozeman and NARC-Havre. Also new this year, the durum release

MTD16005 will see its first Foundation seed production in Bozeman. I spent a fair amount of time in the greenhouse one day with pulse breeder Kevin McPhee looking at upcoming material expected to reach our program within the next two years. As many of you know, spring wheat breeder Luther Talbert retired as of Dec. 31st and winter wheat breeder Phil Bruckner is overseeing that program until a new faculty member is hired probably in 2021. That pipeline is well filled and the program should move forward and transition smoothly.

On a final note, I've scouted some of our Foundation winter wheat the past week and it seems to be well despite displaying a color range of yellow-green-red and purple all on the same plants. We have roughly 25 acres of Bobcat production planted in addition to Ray, Flathead, and FourOsix.

Wishing you a healthy/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 listed above for variety availability and descriptions.



Gravity Table
gifted by MSGA to
the MSU Foundation
Seed Program