

Fall 2020

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A Quarterly Update from the Montana Seed Growers Association

The Sprout

Photo by: Roger Hybner

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Bob Hofman (District 2)
Cavin Steiger- Vice President (District 3)
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Update from MSGA

MSGA Seed Database Updates:

Most of you by now have logged onto the new database to apply for seed certification in 2020. Since the launch of the application and field inspections module, we have been working on the seed lab and bulk sales system. Starting early this spring we will transition the certified seed samples (only) into the new database. Next year all your samples will be run through the new database. Common samples will still run through PureHarvest. Sample submission will stay the same but your reports will look different than what you see in PureHarvest. Once the seed lab module is finished and your seed samples are in we can move towards using the online bulk sales system. We are working with our developer and other states to upgrade and change a few things to make this process more user friendly for our customers. This database is constantly being upgraded and improved as we find better ways to work the system. We are excited to move forward with the development and to continue to update and train our customers. We are meeting weekly with the developer and other states to go over issues and improvements. Please call if you have any questions. We will be putting together trainings and guides to help train all our customers on these new database systems.

With 2020 being a year to remember we hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. We want to thank all of you for taking the time to learn the new application process and database.

Production Fees for 2020 Seed Fields

What are production fees, and why do we have them?

Production fees are based on all production from the **acreage which passed field inspection**. This includes seed which is marketed or retained by the grower for their use. Even if the seed is not going to be sold as seed, production fees are still due. Production fees are designed to even out the cost for growers. By not charging a flat rate we allow for variations in production which can be caused by rain, hail, dryland, irrigation, and other events that are out of your control. Production fees allow MSGA to keep our per acre prices on inspections low.

Contractors are responsible for paying production fees to MSGA. We will not individually invoice growers.

Cleanout percentage

All fees should be calculated on a clean seed basis. To determine your "Clean Seed" amount before a seed lot is cleaned, simply deduct 10% from the total seed harvested. This will account for the average amount of seed that will be lost during the conditioning process. For small-seeded crops please call the MSGA office for cleanout percentages.

Production Fees by Crop:

Wheat-Flax-Spelt- Triticale	\$0.05/bu on clean seed
Barley-Oats-Buckwheat- Large Legumes	\$0.08/cwt on clean seed
Oilseed types	\$0.12/cwt on clean seed
Sorghum	\$0.05/bu on clean seed
Industrial Hemp	\$0.05/bu on clean seed
Perennial Crops	
All grass varieties	\$0.005/lb on clean seed
Perennial Legume crops	\$0.005/lb on clean seed
Fourwing Saltbush	\$0.005/lb on clean seed
Small Burnet	\$0.005/lb on clean seed

SAMPLES FOR TESTING

Please remember to properly package your pulse crops when sending samples in the mail. Many times we receive packages that have open bags of seed inside of the box. Also, shipping can cause pulses to split and break during the mailing process. Please use bubble wrap, newspaper, or some other type of packaging to keep your seeds stationary while shipping.

*Remember Chickpeas and Lentils must have an Aschochyta test done before MSGA can assign final certification and issue tags.

Sample Sizes for Laboratory Test on Certified Seed:

	TZ Only	BSMV	Germ Only	Purity Only	Germ, Purity, & BSMV
Small Grains/ Safflower	½ lb		½ lb	2 ½ lb	2 ½ lb
Barley	½ lb	½ lb	½ lb	2 ½ lb	2 ½ lb
Peas	½ lb		½ lb	2 ½ lb	2 ½ lb
Alfalfa	½ cup		½ cup	½ lb	½ lb
Grass	½ cup		½ cup	½ lb	½ lb
Lentils	½ cup		½ cup	1 ½ lb	1 ½ lb
Sainfoin	½ cup		½ cup	2 ½ lb	2 ½ lb
Clover	½ lb		½ lb	½ lb	½ lb
Canola & Crambe	½ cup		½ cup	1 lb	1 lb

Research Fee Collection

Letters were sent out at the end of September to those who grew varieties that have research fee agreements associated with them. South Dakota, North Dakota: both NDCIA and ND Research Foundation, and Wisconsin. You will owe fees on all seed sold between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. Please make sure you send back the completed sheet with payment to MSGA. MSGA will then distribute funds to the appropriate parties. If you have any questions about paying research fees please reach out to Rebecca Papke: Rebecca.papke@montana.edu or (406) 994-5121.

Ordering Tags, Bulk Certificates, and Sample Submission

Please be proactive with your tag and bulk certificate requests and with sample submissions. We often do not get mail in only 2 days, so please send off your samples in enough time to fit your needs. Also, order tags ahead of time so that we can get them made and in the mail to you. We try and get tags printed the same day they are requested, but often they do not go out in the mail until the following day.

MSGA Website

www.mtseedgrowers.org has all of our newsletters, information, and seed standards for your convenience. We also have a link to our new database under the MSGA Seed Tracking System located on the main home page. We have an updated Conditioners report for sending in samples that you can download as well.

Pocket Calendars

If you would like a MSGA pocket calendar for 2020 please call or email one of us at the office and we will send you one. We will not be mailing these out this year.

Foundation Seed Update

>> Doug Holen



While conditions were ideal for harvesting this year at our Foundation Seed production sites, it took almost seven weeks to complete. It did however only take 1 week to finish planting and it seems the calendar indicates seed moving season has ended.

Some things unfolded this year and helped shape our direction moving forward. We did produce the first Foundation seed of the new spring wheat variety 'Dagmar'. It is a semi-solid version of the improvements made to Vida and Lanning in terms of quality. Seed requests have been coming in for it with some seed still available. 'Lustre' durum was expanded from Breeder to Foundation seed for its first production since being released last January and also has some seed available. Additional firsts for this season included seed harvest of alfalfa, sainfoin, and safflower. Each crop has had a learning curve but it was satisfying to put something back on the shelves. 'Bobcat' winter wheat was of course the largest variety in demand with all our production getting conditioned and loaded onto trucks headed for greater Montana. 'Ray' forage winter wheat, while relatively new, has had a lot of interest and seed requests. These requests include surrounding states with a history of 'Willow Creek' production and our forage barleys. With the mention of 'Willow Creek', we produced a small amount of Foundation seed this year that wasn't all spoken for. This helped our decision to not plant any for the 2021 harvest and continue to follow the path of 'Ray' as it slowly replaces Willow Creek across the landscape.

None of us know how the meeting season will go this winter but I hope to talk with many of you again regarding your operations, genetic needs, and how this program can continue moving forward maintaining significance. I truly missed all the site visits and field days this season as they prove valuable in staying in touch with the industry and our customers.

Looking forward to the next variety release meeting in anticipation of five new experimentals up for release discussion including winter wheat, spring wheat, and barley. Watch for updates and announcements later this winter.

Stay well and take care.

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 the current variety availability, pricing, and descriptions.



MSU Foundation Seed harvesting Foundation Shaw alfalfa. This is the second year for this field but the first year of seed production. The Shaw alfalfa is grown at the Lutz farm in Bozeman, MT.

Montana State Seed Testing Lab

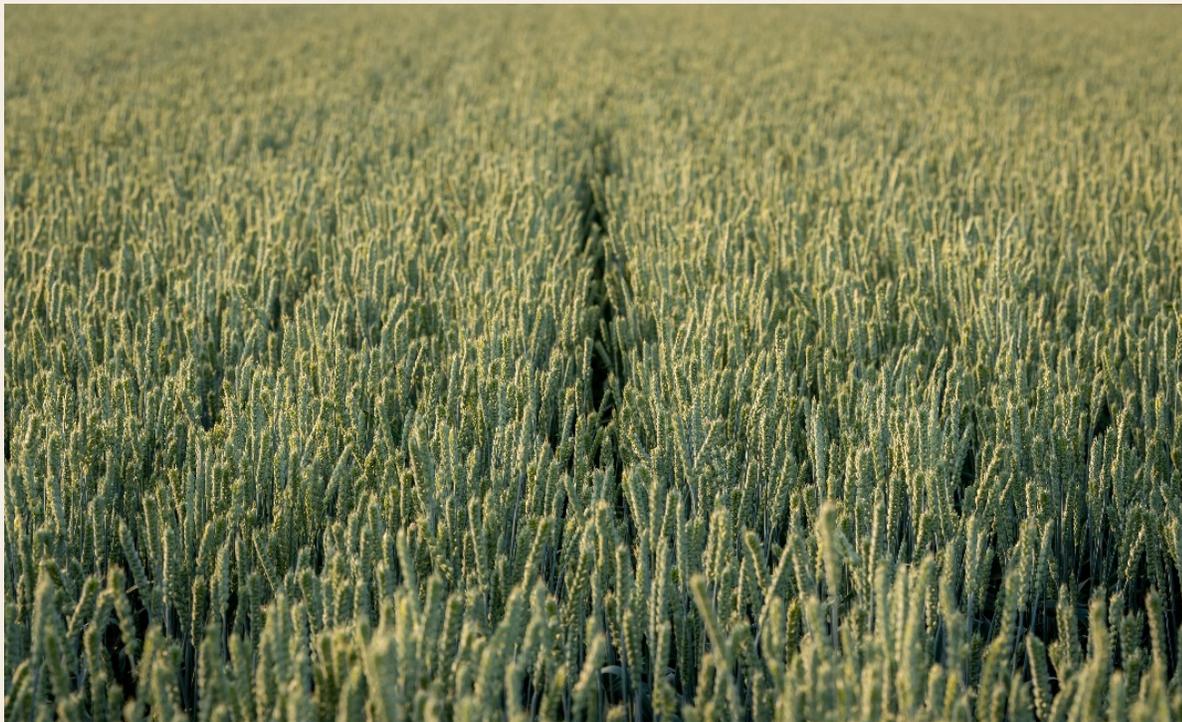
>>Bridget Westfall

Now that Palmer Amaranth has been added to our noxious weed seed list, the Seed Lab has begun the validation process for testing this species through PCR. The Montana State Seed Testing Lab will be able to test sample sizes from 1 seed up to a mixture of 200 seeds. This test will detect the presence of monoecious and/or dioecious Amaranthus DNA.

Redroot and smooth pigweed, waterhemp, and Palmer amaranth are all in the Amaranthus genus. The two pigweeds are monoecious (male and female parts together on the same plant) whereas Palmer and waterhemp are dioecious (separate male and female plants).

As plants, you will see that the pigweeds have hairs on the stems and leaves, but the dioecious species are generally smooth. To distinguish the seeds of these two types is impossible without genetic testing.

If you have seed in question, please contact the Montana State Seed Testing Lab at 406-994-2141 or seedlab@montana.edu.



Foundation Ray hard red winter wheat

Photo by: Jared Unverzagt

District Elections

It's the 2020 election! Not quite presidential status but elections for the MSGA Board of Directors are in process. Ballots will be sent out soon for Directors nominations for District 2 and District 3. These seats are currently held by Bob Hofman of Manhattan, MT (District 2 is comprised of Granite, Powell, Lewis & Clark, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Broadwater, Meagher, Park, Gallatin, Madison, Beaverhead, and Sweetgrass Counties) and Cavin Steiger of Forsyth, MT

(District 3 is comprised of Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Carter and Fallon Counties.) All growers who have grown through MSGA from Districts 2 & 3 for the 2020 growing season are eligible to vote. Any grower living within the two districts who has been a member/grower of MSGA for the last three consecutive years (as shown by signing an Application for Certification) may be elected to serve as a director. The term of office for each director is three years. The three candidates with the most votes in the primary election will then move on to the general election. **Please be sure to cast your vote for your representative!**



Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Montana Seed Trade Winter Meeting:(membership only) December 6-10 in Bozeman, MT
- MSU Celebrate Agriculture Weekend: November 13-14 Bozeman, MT
- Montana Pulse Day: November 12th (Virtual Event)
- 65th Annual Montana Grain Growers Convention: Virtual Event

MSGA Field Inspection Season Update

Thank You MSGA Field Inspectors

MSGA wants to thank all our hard-working field inspectors for another successful season. Our inspectors put in long hours walking fields in order to get all 94,000 acres inspected before harvest. We could not have this certification program without our dedicated inspectors who continue to work for us every year! Our inspector's knowledge of their areas, fields, and growers is invaluable when it comes to creating a working and personal relationship with the grower members of MSGA. Thank you again:

Brian Bedord
Lisa Bedord
Brianna Bernhardt
Roger Brookie
Tom Davis
Peyton Hill
Josey Ugrin
Erin Miller

Alexis Clingingsmith
Susan Engstrom
Larry Holzworth
Roger Hybner
Red Lovec
Elisha Otis
John Ranney
Thad White

Mike Morgan
Richelle O'Leary
Mary Nagle



MSGA inspected our first industrial hemp seed fields this past summer. Pictured is Brian Bedord one of our field inspectors who primarily inspects up in the triangle area of Montana. Overall we had a successful inspection season with many new improvements to how we record field inspections. Our inspectors now use tablets to log their findings from the field. Once the data is entered inspections are synced to our online database and we had those inspections in real-time in most cases. This helped us get results to our growers and contractors faster than with the traditional method of mailing out copies. With anything new, there was a learning curve that all our inspectors embraced and did a great job with. We had a very warm summer so most inspections were completed by the end of August, a big change from 2019 when we were still inspecting some fields in October.





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MSGA Acres Applied for By Crop Type 2020

Crop	Acres Applied 2020
Spring Wheat	26,161.68
Winter Wheat	21,386.34
Barley	13,085.22
Pea	12,292.90
Lentil	1,956.70
Durum Wheat	3,904.57
Triticale	3,115.50
Chickpea	1,665.00
Alfalfa	1,099.20
Grasses	2,963.41
Misc.	6,413.88
Total	94,044.40