**Yearly Reminders**

Please take note of these yearly reminders. It is the GROWER’s 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 before harvest, no certification will be allowed on the seed from that field. Please contact the MSGA office (406) 994-5121 if you are unable to contact your inspector. Please plan 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 a 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.
The month of June passed quickly just like May and April and the realization that harvest season will soon be here is settling in. While the wet weather has limited our field time lately, foundation field scouting and roguing has been the main focus and will continue to be for the next month. At the same time, the bin shuffle has begun in anticipation of incoming crops. This time of the year always emphasizes the significance of temporary and long term storage. Some bin spaces can outweigh the value of the crop currently in it when new crops and varieties replace older grain and genetics. That being said, we added two new bins this summer to assist with seed management but planning (predicting) will always be the real key.

We currently have foundation fields around the Bozeman area on MSU ground in addition to fields at the EARC, CARC, and NARC. Mother Nature allowing, new seed stocks of Bobcat, FourOsix, Flathead, Ray, and a small amount of Willow Creek winter wheat will be processed. Along with Dagmar, Vida, and Lanning spring wheat and Lavina forage barley. Lustre is the name given to the new durum variety released from the Giroux program last January. We have the first foundation seed of it and Dagmar spring wheat ready to harvest this fall. A couple of Experimental winter wheat along with Delaney sainfoin and Shaw alfalfa are progressing towards harvest also.

This fall’s crop processing is much anticipated with the recent renovations made to the seed cleaning plant in terms of equipment, grain legs, ventilation, and lighting. Efficacy and safety changes were overdue and will be much appreciated.

Stay well enjoying everything around you. Wishing all a safe harvest season.

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.

Picture: Foundation Delaney Sainfoin north of Bozeman, MT
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 the 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 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 Department’s 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
- The 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 dealers 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.

The Department has amended Administrative Rules of Montana 4.12.3011 and placed Palmer Amaranth (Amaranthus palmeri) onto the list of Montana prohibitive noxious weeds seeds. Additionally, the Department has removed Yellow Toadflax (Linaria vulgaris) from the list of prohibited noxious weeds.

Bob Ballensky
Seed and Commodity Program
Commodity Service Bureau
Montana State Department of Agriculture
406-444-3950 office
208-738-8920 cell
bballensky@mt.gov
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.

Josey Ugrin- (303) 775-0915
Peyton Hill- (406) 781-6003
Gallatin, Beaverhead, Madison, Park, Broadwater, Jefferson, Silver Bow Counties.

Lisa Bedord- (406) 590-9091
Brian Bedord- (406) 590-9092
Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Fergus, Teton Counties.

Erin Miller- (406) 434-5943 Cell: 406-450-4858
Pondera, Glacier, Toole Counties

Thad White- (814) 931-7758
Judith Basin, Fergus Counties

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.
Montana State Seed Lab

>>> Bridget Westfall

I was recently elected to the AOSA (Association of Official Seed Analysts) Executive Board. I will be serving a 3-year term. In this position, I will be involved in the budget review, planning of future virtual annual meetings, committee meetings, and other issues facing the Association.

At this time the Montana State Seed Testing Lab would like to acknowledge the many years of service from Willimina Van Egmond who passed away April 12, 2020. She was 96 years old. When I came to the lab as a new analyst, Willimina was very patient with me. Lee Hart, the manager at the time told me “Do not do anything to make her mad!” She was such a valuable resource, and I was very fortunate to be trained by a woman with so many years of experience with the native grasses.

–Bridget Westfall
Preparing for Field Inspections  >>>

Roguing of Fields

We try to include this item each year as a reminder of some basic preparations that need 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 allows growers to cancel fields before an 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 free of Yellow and White sweet clover before the 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 grower’s 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 to detect off-types and other contaminating crops. This is best done within 2 weeks of harvest (especially on small grains).
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 ensure that your fields are inspected at the appropriate times.

**Perennial Crops**

*1st year:* First-year perennial fields will need 2 inspections the first year. 1st inspection is at the seedling stage. 2nd 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 in 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 send in your renewal paperwork as soon as possible. MSGA wants to thank all our cleaning and handling facilities for taking the time last fall to attend our seed schools. If you need us to re-send your renewal paperwork please reach out to the office and we would be happy to do so.

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 before its sale and distribution as Foundation, Registered, or Certified seed to confirm the acceptable, minimum herbicide tolerance level of 92% to Aggressor herbicide.

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 rejected 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 contaminants. 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.