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: $6.00/acre

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 will be sent out on March 31st, but if you still have questions on what you owe, please contact the office.
Spring is right around the corner, at least it feels like that here in Bozeman. We are experiencing temperatures in the 50's during the day which is a nice break from our snowy February weather. We are all ready to start a new certification season with you and roll into our second season using the online application system. Applications can be submitted at any time but will not be reviewed until closer to the date they are due. Perennial fields will be “rolled over” from last year, using the database. I have sent out emails to everyone with perennial fields on how to re-submit your fields for the 2021 growing season. If you have questions please reach out to me and I can set up a training or I can walk you through the process over the phone. If you run into issues let me know and I will work on fixing what I can.

Last year being what it was we were fairly lenient with cleaning and handling facility paperwork. That being said I will work on sending out renewals by the end of April this year. We would appreciate your paperwork back by June 30th, so that we can have an updated list for the fall seed cleaning season. We did not have a list up until December last year as I was still trying to get renewals from some of our cleaning and handling facilities.

We are working on ways to improve the mapping in the online applications process. Some updates that will be made soon are as follows: full-screen editing of maps, calculated acres from your field drawing, and other visual changes to help make the process more user-friendly.

We are continuing to work on the bulk sales system, and we are starting to set up those that are interested. This database is a continual work in progress and changes to improve it are made almost daily. Some of these changes are behind the scene, and others you will notice.

We will continue to invoice for certification fees like we did last year so please wait for the invoice before sending checks in for your fees. We will also continue to send paper copies of field inspection reports as a safety measure, to ensure all parties are receiving the paperwork they need.

Remember to check your crop history before planting this spring and call us here at the office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Papke
Certification Manager, MSGA
Buckwheat: A Hazard to Montana’s Export Markets

As farmers prepare for spring planting, the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee is reminding producers to ensure that wheat shipments destined for export are buckwheat-free. In light of the ongoing global pandemic, food safety has become one of the most important factors for purchasers of ingredients. Montana exports 60-80% of its wheat to countries located in the Pacific Rim. Since Asian countries are large importers of Montana wheat, it is important that producers and handlers understand the serious health risk and potential economic impact posed by buckwheat.

Tame buckwheat is a deadly allergen in Asian countries. It is often compared to peanut allergies, carrying different levels of reaction severity, ranging from mild to extreme. The United States has taken precautionary measures to provide allergen safety in labeling, such as zero-tolerance for unlabeled allergen exposure, which are the same efforts taken for exporting food ingredients.

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Recourses Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) has provided guidelines on this issue:

- Use of buckwheat must be excluded from cover crops plantings in rotation or adjacent to fields with wheat production or abstain from growing wheat as a commodity for 2 calendar years after planting buckwheat.

There is ZERO tolerance for export elevator deliveries exposed to buckwheat. Following an exposure, grain elevators may extend their rejection to refuse future deliveries from certain producers, meaning it is crucial that producers do not expose their operation to buckwheat in any form.

To protect and foster the health and prosperity of Montana’s wheat and barley industry, the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee is committed to educating producers about the dangers of buckwheat in a small grains rotation and surveying cover crop mixes across the state, including volunteer situations.

Established in 1967, the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee promotes research, marketing, and education for the benefit of Big Sky Producers living, working, and growing here in the Last Best Place.

For more information, visit www.montanawbc.com
Surprised by the abnormal seed found in this particular lot we sought out the best of the best within the Association of Official Seed Analysts.

Riad Baalbaki with the California Department of Food and Agriculture weighs in on seed abnormalities.

There are many reasons for this kind of abnormality. Your customer should decide which, if any, apply to that particular seed lot.

-As you noted, chemical injury is a frequent factor. Seed treatment will produce the observed abnormalities, but the pictured seeds appear untreated, so this would not be a consideration. A frequently overlooked chemical factor is herbicide drift, particularly 2, 4-D, and dicamba, and these can produce the observed abnormalities if exposure takes place during seed development.
-Alternating dry and wet conditions during seed development can also lead to coleoptile abnormalities, and generally also to the death of growing tips of the grass embryo (radicle and coleoptile tissue).
-Mechanical damage is a common factor that produces these abnormalities. This is especially true if seed conditioning (and to a lesser degree, harvesting) was done at a higher than desirable seed moisture content. Mechanical damage usually produces a high number of abnormalities of shoots, roots, or both.
-Related to the above, heat damage has been reported as a factor, although the most common effect of heat damage is the absence of leaf development within the coleoptile, rather than abnormal coleoptile abnormalities.
-Frost damage during seed development will also produce abnormal coleoptiles that tend to be more rigid than usual, and split prematurely.
-Finally, nutrient deficiencies, like Ca and B, can produce a wide range of seedling abnormalities. However, these deficiencies are usually obvious in the field, before seed harvest. Also, mineral deficiencies usually produce a more widespread effect throughout a seed lot, rather than affecting a low percentage of seeds.

Please contact the Montana State Seed Lab with any further seed testing questions.

Bridget Westfall
bridget.westfall@montana.edu
406-994-2141
Meet your Board of Directors for 2021

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.

The MSGA BOD meeting was held virtually this year but will be held in person next year. Our BOD did not change and Bill Edwards is still President, and Cavin Steiger is still Vice President.

Montana Seed Growers Association is a proud sponsor of the State FFA Agronomy Contest
Hints of spring can easily be noticed with watching and listening to the returning birds. Fielding seed request phone calls and filling orders also reminds me that preparations are needed for the 2021 growing season. This year will different than any other in the last 30+ years as MSU will be without spring wheat breeder Luther Talbert and winter wheat’s Phil Bruckner who is retiring at the end of this month. Please take a moment to wish them well and thank them for a long career dedicated to providing the best MSU genetics to farmers across the state. They are and will be missed. I enthusiastically anticipate two new breeders hired this year connecting our past genetic successes with future directions and maintaining our significance in the seed industry.

As many of you know, MSU research fees increased on Jan. 1 of this year. The decision was well thought out with statewide input from our stakeholders where the movement began. The increase will assist our five breeding programs, research centers, and Foundation seed program for many years to come.

Something I discuss often with our plant breeders is current, past, and future varieties. It is difficult to plan on what seed will be requested and a program can only have so many bins. You will notice that some varieties after great success are being phased out when multiple improved ones are released. Examples currently are Willow Creek, Hays, Haybet, Yellowstone, and Judee. That’s not to say we can’t grow them again if a request is made but it would be the next season. I will work hard to make sure what is needed is available in a timely manner. Please help me anticipate some of these needs a season in advance with a quick phone call insuring what is needed is in production.

Our new spring wheat Dagmar will get its first look in greater Montana this season with Foundation seed moving throughout the state ready for Registered seed production and getting it a step closer to the general farming community. Buzz malt barley is still looking to find its roots in the malting system with a bunch of bushels produced statewide last year. We had one variety released this past January out of the spring wheat program. MT1716 hasn’t been named yet but will have Foundation seed produced this year. Its unique characteristic is having FHB (scab) resistance while maintaining good yield and many other traits critical to dryland Montana production.

Wishing you good spring soil moisture, timely rains, seasonal temperatures, and a safe/healthy 2021 growing 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 current variety availability, pricing, and descriptions.
2021 Certification Season

Applications and Perennial Renewals

2021 Perennial rollovers will be completed by the contractor on the MSGA database. Please call Rebecca Papke (406) 994-5121 and she can go over how to do this. We have sent emails out to all our producers who had perennial fields last year. So far the common issue is that some fields are not showing up, so make sure that you have all your fields applied for, and if some are missing let us know so that we can help you. We will send out another round of emails to remind you before May 25th which is the deadline for perennial and pulse applications.

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 2020, 2019, and 2018 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.
On February 24th MSGA held our first-ever membership meeting. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom. We had about 115 attendees and 8 different speakers. Our speakers were: Mike Foster; Director, Montana Department of Agriculture, Cort Jensen; Attorney, Montana Department of Agriculture, Andy LaVigne; President and CEO, American Seed Trade Association, Pat Miller; Director, State Affairs, American Seed Trade Association, Brent Turnipseed; Manager, SDSU Seed Testing Lab, Doug Holen; Manager, MSU Foundation Seed Program, Heather Unverzagt; Executive Director, MSGA, Rebecca Papke; Certification Manager; MSGA. Our speakers covered a range of topics from seed law to seed testing.

We did record this meeting if you would like the link to listen please call the MSGA office and we will send you a link.

MSGA will plan on holding another meeting in 2022, since this is just a 2-3 hour meeting we will continue to use a virtual platform.

2021 MAES Field Day Details

- Tuesday, June 29th @3:00pm NARC, Havre, MT
- Wednesday, June 30th @3:00pm SARC, Huntley, MT
- Thursday, July 8th POST/BART Farm, Bozeman, MT
- Tuesday, July 13th @8:50am CARC, Moccasin, MT
- Wednesday, July 14th @10:00am WTARC, Conrad, MT
- Thursday, July 15th @11:00am NWARC, Creston, MT
- Tuesday, July 20th @9:00am EARC, Sidney, MT
- Thursday, July 29th @4:30pm WARC, Corvallis, MT

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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