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

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**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 2 & 3. We want to thank everyone who voted for our great candidates. Congratulations to Bob Hofman (District 2) from Manhattan, and to Cavin Steiger (District 3) from Forsyth. Both board members were re-elected for a 2nd 3-year term. We are excited to continue to work with them in the coming years.

**MSGA Board of Directors Meeting 2021**

The MSGA Board of Directors meeting will most likely be held virtually, as things stand so far. The meeting will be Tuesday, February 2nd. 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.
Update From MSGA

What a year! In 2020 MSGA rolled out our new online applications database. We trained all of our contractors and growers remotely as in-person meetings were not an option. With that, we want to sincerely thank every one of you for your flexibility and willingness to learn this new system. We also used electronic field inspection submissions. Our inspectors used tablets to track findings in the field, and in most cases, we had inspection results within a couple of days. Going forward, MSGA will be rolling out our bulk sales system and seed lab side of the database. Bulk sales will be a few clicks away and can be accessed at any time, no more waiting for bulk stickers in the mail. With that being said, we will roll this system slowly and in phases. We want to start with a few dealers in the beginning and go from there. If you ever have any questions or would like a walk-through of any part of our online system please call the office and we would be happy to set up a meeting.

Our office will be closed on Christmas eve and Christmas day, Thursday and Friday, December 24th-25th, as well as New Year's Day Friday, January 1st.

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.

Sincerely,

Heather, Rebecca, and Nancy

Montana State Seed Testing Lab

>>Bridget Westfall

Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. We have seen it all this year. The Montana State Seed Testing Lab would like to wish you peace and joy as well as prosperity in the last few days of 2020 and well into 2021. All of us here at the lab sincerely thank-you for your support as we support you with your testing needs. We are offering a 10% discount on germinations until the end of December. That should bring some relief! Everyone stay positive and enjoy life.

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 crop 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.

Newly installed grain bins at the Lutz Farm in Bozeman, MT. Each bin can hold 1,800 bu. of MSU Foundation seed varieties.

In an industry built on relationships and communication, Covid 19 has certainly changed the way we do business. I've missed all the work that gets done outside the main conference rooms of annual gatherings like the Grain Grower Convention, MABA, MSTA, and local gatherings. Phone calls just can't take the place of casual conversations mixing in business, family, and farming in general.

Like most, time not spent traveling is being used to catch up on paperwork, reports, 2021 planning and preparations, and a couple of proposed system improvements.

Our January will include the usual MSU Variety Release Meeting on January 19th. At this time there will be discussions on a new spring wheat, winter wheat, and forage barley. Full variety descriptions and data submissions are released prior to the discussion. I'll recap the results of that meeting while highlighting any new releases in the Spring Newsletter.

I am looking forward to 2021 and planting season. On hand and available for sale will include barleys Hays, Haybet, Lavina, Haxby, Hockett, and Buzz barley. Spring wheat inventory consists of Dagmar, Lanning, Vida, Egan, and Duclair. New to our inventory is the 2020 Foundation production of Delaney sainfoin and Shaw alfalfa. Any seed questions or requests can simply be made by calling, emailing, texting, and messages.

Hoping your holiday season is restful and includes those closest to you while wishing you a safe and profitable 2021 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.
Media Release  
Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA)  
November 30, 2020

Certified Wheat Seed Leads to Award-Winning Yields

The National Wheat Foundation (NWF) recently released the winners of its 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest and the results highlight the importance of using pure varieties of professionally produced seed. Top wheat producers know that selecting Certified seed is the first step to harvesting award-winning yields.

“In each of the contest’s categories, the winning and runner-up yields were produced with wheat varieties that have been reviewed and recognized for production as Certified wheat seed,” according to Chet Boruff, CEO of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). “Wheat growers who purchase Certified seed know it has been produced according to AOSCA Standards, under the supervision of a seed certifying agency, to maintain the purity and quality of the variety they have selected.”

When a plant breeder develops a potential new wheat variety, they submit it to AOSCA for a thorough review to ensure the variety meets the criteria outlined for Certified seed in the US Federal Seed Act. Upon receiving a favorable review, the variety moves into the production pipeline where seed certifying agencies work with seed companies to make sure customers get the pure seed they expect.

“Producing award-winning yields of any crop can be a gamble because of all the variables throughout the season,” says Boruff. “Planting Certified seed is a proven way to tip the odds in your favor from the very beginning.”

For more information about Certified seed and how it can be the first step to top yields, contact the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) at www.aosca.org or contact one of the seed certifying agencies listed on its website.

For the list of winners for the 2020 National wheat yield contest please visit:  
https://wheatfoundation.org/

Production Fees for 2021

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 15th.

Fall Crop Field Applications

With MSGA’s new system you can go ahead and enter in all your winter crops now. Save time by entering in your applications early. If you have questions or need a refresher on entering in new fields please call the office or send us an email. We will not be reviewing any applications until closer to the deadline this spring. If you have specific questions on seed source documents or field history please let us know.