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 $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 went out on March 31st, but if you still have questions about what you owe, please contact the office.
What Can I Plant?

Spring is officially here and that means planting season! As you are gearing up for spring you might be making some last-minute planting decisions, and that is okay. Wheat prices are up, but so is every other input cost. You might be considering just pulling some wheat out of the bin to save on cost, but it could end up the other way around. Think twice and check your varieties before you sow your seed. It is recommended that you purchase new seed, but if you cannot this year here is what you need to know.

According to the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, the top five spring wheat varieties planted in the state are Vida, Reeder, Lanning, SY Ingmar, and Corbin.

1. **Vida**: MSU variety. PVP Title V. You can plant back your seed. You may only buy or sell a class of certified seed.
2. **Reeder**: NDSU variety. PVP has expired. You can plant back your seed, or purchase common.
3. **Lanning**: MSU. PVP Title V. You can plant back your seed. You may only buy or sell a class of certified seed.
4. **SY Ingmar**: Syngenta variety. PVP Title V. You can plant back your seed. You may only buy or sell a class of certified seed.
5. **Corbin**: WestBred/Bayer variety. PVP. You can plant back your seed. You may only buy or sell a class of certified seed.

Types of Protection:

1. **Plant Variety Protection 1994**
   a. **PVP**: The PVPA was amended in 1994 to restrict certain activities allowed in the original act. The amendments apply to all varieties with Plant Variety Protection.
      i. All varieties must be sold by variety name.
      ii. Sales of farmer saved seeds are prohibited.
      iii. Seed conditioners may be held liable if they clean a PVPA protected Seed.
      iv. The protection extends to crops that were planted and/or harvested with illegally obtained seeds.
   b. **PVP Title V**: The variety must be sold as a class of certified seed. Sales of non-certified seed are illegal under Title V of the Federal Seed Act.

2. **Patents**
   a. An application for a patent can be filed based on specific characteristics and improvements in varieties. A U.S. patent holder can prevent others from making, using, offering for sale, and selling or importing the claimed invention in the United States. Generally, plant patents prohibit buyers from saving seed for replanting. Violation of patents includes seizure/destruction of crops, loss of grower license, and liability for damages to the patent holder.

3. **Contractual Agreements/Single Use Seed Agreements/Certified Seed Only**
   a. Some varieties now have a Single-Use License Agreement (limited-use variety) attached to them, also referred to as Certified Seed Only (CSO) agreements or Stewardship Agreements. These are contractual agreements with an individual company where the grower agrees that the seed they purchase is used solely for planting and producing a single crop, and not to save any grain produced from seed for planting by the grower or any other person or entity. Information on Single-Use Agreements can be obtained by contacting the owner of the variety.

Please contact the office with any questions on variety protection or if you have questions about your seed.
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, producers and handlers must 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 Resources 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
Greetings,

Just a friendly reminder to get your Aschochyta and germination samples submitted as soon as possible. We are caught up but the required length of time for an Aschochyta is 10-14 days. The average pea germination so far this year is running around 87%. We are seeing a rise in abnormal seedlings. Cereal crop germinations are holding steady in the upper 90%.

Please visit our website https://plantsciences.montana.edu/seedlab to view a short video about our online sample submission form. This online sample submission allows you to enter in all your lab tests, lot numbers, and comments before sending in your seed sample. If you are already set up with a PureHarvest account, you can go to thmontana.pureharvest.com to get started. If you do not have an account, give us a call at 406-991-2141 and we will get you set up in the system. This new sample submission will help decrease mistakes with sample entry.

“Planting a seed means you have hope for tomorrow”

Bridget Westfall
bridget.westfall@montana.edu
406-994-2141

**Constant Contact Emails for MSGA**

MSGA is now using Constant Contact to email out information, reminders, news articles, and seed information. If you are not on our email list please call the office and we will add you. We will be emailing out our newsletters as well as printing them. If you are on our email list and haven’t received our emails please check your junk or spam folder.
Keep a look out for more up to date information from MSGA.

**Field Inspectors Needed**

MSGA is looking for a 2 motivated individuals to join our field inspection team. Location would be Billings or Bozeman. Work starts mid June until September (season varies depending on growing conditions.) The inspection season moves quickly and long hours are required occasionally in order to inspect fields in a timely manner. You will work closely with growers and contractors in order to determine the status of fields that you inspect. A field inspector training meeting is required and will be held June 4th (Saturday) in Bozeman, MT attendance is mandatory. If this sounds like something you would be interested in please contact Rebecca Papke Rebecca.papke@montana.edu (406) 994-5121
Meet your Board of Directors for 2022

Pictured left to right: Bill Edwards, Cavin Steiger, Terry Peters, Steve Grove, Bob Hofman, and Jack Lake.

The 2022 MSGA BOD meeting was held in Bozeman, MT February 8th & 9th. MSGA’s current President is Bill Edwards, and Vice President is Cavin Steiger.

Montana Seed Growers Association is a proud sponsor of the State FFA Agronomy Contest
It is hard to hope winter is closing when not enough snow has fallen but a mid-March calendar date indicates spring transitions are underway. With that comes the seed requests leading to seed cleaning, treating, and delivery. The Foundation Seed Program continues to upgrade many operations components. A noticeable improvement will be this fall when you notice all our seed totes will have MSU logos. We still have a good supply of spring wheats and barleys on hand but are sold out of Dagmar spring wheat.

New this season will be the first Foundation production of MT 457 green pea, MT Cowgirl forage barley, durums yet to be named (MTD18313 & MTD18348), and winter wheat MTS18149. Jump on our website to find production data on the new releases.

I am happiest to announce with the partnership of Montana Wheat & Barley and the Montana Department of Ag, we very recently hired BranDee Johnston of Worden, MT to fill the new position of ‘Crop Variety Promotions and Education Specialist’ here at MSU. She and I will work closely to improve upon our program visibility, transparency, and customer/producer communications. I’ll let her introduce herself and please welcome her as the season rolls on.

Hello! I am BranDee Johnston and am excited to be working at Montana State University as the MSU Crop Variety Promotions and Education Specialist. I am originally from Winifred, Montana, and grew up on a wheat farm. My first two years of college were spent at Oklahoma State University majoring in Agronomy with an emphasis in Crop Science. While there, I worked in the Alfalfa and Peanut breeding labs and was also a member of the Oklahoma State Crops Judging team. I transferred to Montana State University and graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy and Crop and Soil Science. During my time at MSU, I worked in the Weed Science Department as well as the Plant Pathology Department and was also a member of the Montana State University concert band. Since college, I have worked in the seed industry in Montana as well as surrounding states.

I currently reside in Worden, Montana and most of my free time is spent in the gym or on a track field watching my three beautiful daughters at their sporting events. Maybe some of you can relate to that! I am looking forward to working with the farmers and producers and everyone involved in the seed industry in Montana. Please feel free to contact me via phone, at 406-749-4154 or email, brandee.johnston@montana.edu.

Wishing you good spring soil moisture, timely rains, seasonal temperatures, and a safe/healthy, and prosperous 2022 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 the current variety of availability, pricing, and descriptions.

[Photo credit: BranDee Johnston]
2022 Certification Season

Applications and Perennial Renewals

2022 Perennial rollovers can be done at any time. Those of you who had perennial fields last year will use the same system as last year in the database. If you have questions or run into issues please give Rebecca a call at the office at (406) 994-5121.

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.

3. **Field History:** There will be a place for you to fill out your cropping history online. We will need 2021, 2020, and 2019 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. Please review field history before planting, if you have questions call the office.

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. Application fees are one per variety, grower, and class.

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:** Late fees will be assessed on applications that are submitted after the due date. Please see the first page of this newsletter for our late fee structure.

MSGA Database:

Remember that all applications are submitted online via the seed tracking database. To access the database please go to [www.mtseedgrowers.org](http://www.mtseedgrowers.org) click on the seed tracking database. The link to apply is the second line down. If you are interested in using our online bulk sales system or if you need a refresher on applications please call Rebecca Papke at (406) 994-5121.
In January MSGA held a 5-week seminar series, we had different speakers each week on Tuesday mornings from 9-10 am. These were well attended with 40-80 attendees each week. On February 25th MSGA held its Second Annual Membership Meeting. There were around 80 who attended the virtual meeting. MSGA had speakers from MSU, Doug Holen MSU Foundation Seed, Jason Cook MSU Spring Wheat Breeder, Dr. Mike Giroux; MSU Durum Breeder, Josie Ugrin; MSU Graduate Student, Dr. Sara Wilbanks; CEO of AOSCA.

MSGA will continue to hold an annual membership meeting each year and host our seminar series to help continue the conversation of seed with our grower members and industry partners. If there are certain topics you would like to see presented at the membership meeting or speakers you would like to hear from please let us know!

### 2022 MAES Field Day Details

- Wednesday, June 22\(^{nd}\) @8:15 am CARC, Moccasin, MT
- Thursday, June 23\(^{rd}\) @3:00 pm NARC, Havre, MT
- Thursday, July 7\(^{th}\) @8:00 am Post Farm, Bozeman, MT
- Tuesday, July 12\(^{th}\) @9:00 am EARC, Sidney, MT
- Thursday, July 14\(^{th}\) @11:00 am NARC, Creston, MT
- Tuesday, July 19\(^{th}\) @10:00 am WTARC, Conrad, MT
- Thursday, July 28\(^{th}\) @4:30pm WARC, Corvallis, MT