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MSGA Udate



Winter 2023

A Quarterly Update from the Montana Seed Growers Association

The Sprout

Photo by: Rebecca Papke

Board of Directors

Jack Lake (District 1)

Bob Hofman (District 2)

Cavin Steiger (District 3)

Katie Hatlelid (District 4)

Terry Peters (District 5)

Chad Forest (District 6)

Mike Giroux-Interm Ex. Officio

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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 4 & 6. We want to thank everyone who voted for our great candidates. Congratulations to Katie Hatlelid (District 4) from Denton, MT, and to Chad Forest (District 6) from Richland, MT. Each Director will serve a three year term. A special thanks to Steve Grove, and Bill Edwards for their many years of service on the MSGA board of directors.

MSGA Board of Directors Meeting 2023

The MSGA Board of Directors meeting will be held in Bozeman January 31st-February 1st. 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. Please call the office if you need the contact information for you respective board member.

Update From MSGA

As we are rolling into the new year we continue to make changes and strive towards regulatory compliance, ensuring both MSGA and our customers are in compliance with Federal and State Seed Laws, and the Plant Variety Protection Act. To aid MSGA in this we are continuing the transition in our database. There are multiple advantages to both growers and labelers. A few changes you will see this year are: all crops excluding Grasses and forbs will be having tests done in the MSGA database instead of PureHarvest. This will allow for tying fields to seed lots and make for a seamless and easy printing of bulk certificates. No longer will you rely on the mail for the approved copy of certification before selling. Bulk certificates will also be moving to the online format instead of the stickers. A few advantages are that labelers can now print bulk certificates as soon as the seed lot passes final certification, and the system will record the transactions therefore eliminating the need to send in the excel spreadsheet. As a reminder there are a few requirements that must be kept in mind. A bulk certificate must be printed for each seed sale. Make sure that all carryover seed has an updated germination test (12 months for in-state and 6 months across any borders). With any seed lot the seller will want to make sure to retain a regulatory sample. The size varies depending on crop, so please refer to the MSGA handbook for guidance.

As always if you have any questions or need additional training please be sure to contact the office. We look forward to working with you in 2023.

Planning for Spring Seeding

Even though it is only January, 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 2023 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.

Production Fees 2022

Please remember that production fees must be paid on all seed that was field inspected. We send out the first notice for production fees the end of November. 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, 2023.