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Fall 2024

A Quarterly Update from the Montana Seed Growers Association

# *The Sprout*

## ***Board of Directors***

Jack Lake-President (District 1)

Bob Hofman (District 2)

Phil Davey- (District 3)

Katie Hatlelid (District 4)

Terry Peters (District 5)

Chad Forest- Vice President (District 6)

Mike Giroux-Ex. Officio

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## ***Proper Seed Sampling***

As the winter wheat samples have been rolling in, it is a great time to remind everyone of the proper seed sampling procedures. A seed sample must be representative of the entire lot and need to be taken in accordance with the AOSA Rules for Testing Seed. If you are cleaning two separate lots of seed, each lot needs to have its own number, or you need to wait to send in a sample until both the samples from the cleanings can be combined to represent one lot. Samples taken at the beginning of the seed cleaning process cannot be used to test the seed for certification.

General seed sampling procedures are listed below, however, if you would like additional resources, please refer to the MSGGA Handbook, or contact the office.

- A. To secure a representative sample, equal portions must be taken from evenly distributed parts of the quantity of seed to be sampled. Access must be had to all parts of that quantity.
- B. For free-flowing seed in bags or bulk, a probe or trier long enough to sample all portions of the bag or bulk must be used.
- C. Non-free-flowing seed, such as chaffy grass seed, which is difficult to sample with a probe or trier, must be sampled by thrusting the hand into the bulk and withdrawing representative portions.
- D. As the seed is sampled, each portion must be examined. If there appears to be a lack of uniformity, the portions must not be combined but must be retained separately for laboratory analysis. If the portions appear uniform, they may be combined to form a composite sample.
- E. Composite samples must be obtained to determine the quality of a lot of seed, such as the percentages of pure seed, other crop seed, weed seed, inert matter, noxious weed seed, germination, varietal purity, freedom from disease, and effectiveness of seed treatment.

# Production Fees for 2024 Seed Fields

## **What are production fees, and why do we have them?**

Production fees are based on all production from the **acreage that passed field inspection**. This includes seed which is marketed or retained by the grower for their own use. Even if the seed is not going to be sold as seed, production fees are still due. Production fees are designed to even out the cost for growers. By not charging a flat rate we allow for variations in production which can be caused by rain, hail, dryland, irrigation, and other events that are out of your control. Production fees allow MSGA to keep our per-acre prices on inspections low.

**Contractors are responsible for paying production fees to MSGA. We will not individually invoice growers.**

## **Cleanout percentage**

All fees should be calculated on a clean seed basis. To determine your "Clean Seed" amount before a seed lot is cleaned, simply deduct 10% from the total seed harvested. This will account for the average amount of seed that will be lost during the conditioning process. For small seeded crops please call the MSGA office for clean out percentages.

## **Production Fees by Crop:**

<b>Wheat-Flax-Spelt-Triticale</b>	<b>\$0.05/bu on clean seed</b>
<b>Barley-Oats-Buckwheat-Large</b>	<b>\$0.08/cwt on clean seed</b>
<b>Legumes</b>	
<b>Oil seed types</b>	<b>\$0.12/cwt on clean seed</b>
<b>Sorghum</b>	<b>\$0.05/bu on clean seed</b>
<b>Industrial Hemp</b>	<b>\$0.05/bu on clean seed</b>
<b>Perennial Crops</b>	
<b>All grass varieties</b>	<b>\$0.005/lb on clean seed</b>
<b>Perennial Legume crops</b>	<b>\$0.005/lb on clean seed</b>
<b>Fourwing Saltbush</b>	<b>\$0.005/lb on clean seed</b>
<b>Small Burnet</b>	<b>\$0.005/lb on clean seed</b>

## **Research Fee Collection**

MSGA is responsible for collecting research fees on some varieties for other states. MSGA will send out letters to those who grew varieties that have research fee agreements associated with them. South Dakota, North Dakota: Both North Dakota Crop Improvement Association, and North Dakota Research Foundation, and Wisconsin. You will report the seed you sold between July 01, 2023, and June 30, 2024. These are the sales that you will owe the royalties on. Please make sure you send back the completed sheet with payment to MSGA. MSGA will then distribute funds to the appropriate parties.

MSGA does NOT collect for Montana State University, Doug Holen is the individual who will collect all of MSU variety fees.

If you have any questions please reach out to Rebecca Papke: [Rebecca.papke@montana.edu](mailto:Rebecca.papke@montana.edu) or (406) 994-5121.

# MSGA Field Inspection Season Update

## Thank You MSGA Field Inspectors

MSGA wants to thank all our hard-working field inspectors for another successful season. Our inspectors put in long hours walking fields to get all 100,000 acres inspected before harvest. We could not have this certification program without our dedicated inspectors who continue to work for us every year! Our inspector's knowledge of their areas, fields, and growers is invaluable when it comes to creating a working and personal relationship with the grower members of MSGA. Thank you again:

**Brian Bedord**

**Lisa Bedord**

**Madison Hodges**

**Roger Brookie**

**Tom Davis**

**Erin Miller**

**Dan Hodges**

**Lary Holzworth**

**Roger Hybner**

**Red Lovec**

**Elisha Otis**

**Thad White**

**Mike Morgan**

**Mary Nagle**

**Andrew Lehnerz**

## Acres Applied for 2024 vs. 2023

Crop	Acres Applied for 2024	Acres Applied for 2023
Spring Wheat	20,947.44	24,965.67
Winter Wheat	29,136.11	28,540.55
Barley	14,162.33	22,356.10
Pea	9,738.06	10,648.20
Lentil	3,962.5	2,972.09
Durum Wheat	5,703.7	3,521.70
Triticale	3,449.23	3,267.05
Chickpea	1,668	3,066.36
Alfalfa	1,418.81	2,229.14
Grasses	3,567.49	4,070.08
Misc.	7,087.60	7,886.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,841.30</b>	<b>113,524</b>

# Montana Foundation Seed Program

## >>Doug Holen



Website: <http://plantsciences.montana.edu/FoundationSeed/>

Facebook: @MSUfoundationseed

X (twitter): @MSU\_fdnseed

Another growing season has passed as 2025 now becomes the focus. 2024 was overall a good year for the MSU Foundation Seed Program recognizing what we were able to accomplish and harvest. We experienced many of the same production problems seen at your facilities and farms. The valley had an extended spring followed by hot and dry during the seed set with an abnormally significant hail event on August 11. It was an uneventful season when it comes to disease and insects but the usual struggle with wildlife and farming in and around the city of Bozeman. We are in a constant state of equipment improvements and additions as our farming footprint continues to grow in acres. We now have everything but the chickpeas in bins, fall grains mostly processed and distributed, and planting completed.

New to our genetic portfolio this year was harvesting Foundation Seed of MT Bridger chickpeas, MT Ubet spring wheat, and MT Meadowlark winter wheat. All are available for the 2025 growing season. We produced new Foundation seed of Ray, MT Cash, and MT Warcat winter wheat, MT Carlson spring wheat, MT Raska durum, and MT Cowgirl barley in 2024 to keep a working inventory looking forward to next season.

Our five breeding programs continue with new materials quickly following those just mentioned. A total of seven experimental varieties were harvested this fall as Breeder Seed with release discussions at the February variety release meeting.

Other things of note include having a full team that includes Clayton and BranDee, the purchase of more bins, adding a grain truck, and combine in addition to continued expansion of acres to facilitate the growing program. BranDee is working to coordinate booths at many trade shows beginning soon. Please stop by her table to talk about everything MSU and genetics. She also continues increasing our visibility with emails, Facebook, Twitter, and attendance at everything agriculture this past summer while visiting seed grower facilities. Her position, supported by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee and MT Department of Ag has added tremendously to what we can do to fully demonstrate what is being done and available at the MSU College of Agriculture and Plant Science/Plant Pathology Dept.

Together we are hoping for fall rains across your regions, a restful winter, and industry enthusiasm for what 2025 brings.

You can contact me at (office) 406-994-5687, (cell) 406-404-5726 and [douglas.holen@montana.edu](mailto:douglas.holen@montana.edu). Or BranDee at 406-749-4154 and [brandee.johnston@montana.edu](mailto:brandee.johnston@montana.edu)

You can also visit our website listed above for the current variety availability, pricing, descriptions, and other social media outlets. Stay well.

Doug Holen,	Director of MSU Foundation Seed Program
BranDee Johnston,	Crop Variety Promotions and Education Specialist
Clayton Edwards,	Research Associate with Foundation Seed Program

# District Elections: District 1 & 5

It's time to elect a new set of Board members for 2024. Each year 2 board members from 2 different districts are elected/re-elected. They all serve a 3-year term and attend one annual board meeting in Bozeman, MT.

1. All growers who have grown through MSGA from Districts 1 & 5 for the 2024 growing season are eligible to vote.
2. Any grower living within the two districts who has been a member/grower of MSGA for the last three consecutive years (as shown by signing an Application for Certification) may be elected to serve as director.
3. The three candidates with the most votes in the primary election will move on to the final election.
4. Ballots will be sent out soon for director nominations for District 1 and District 5.
5. These seats are currently held by **Jack Lake of Ronan, MT** (District 1 is comprised of Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties.) and **Terry Peters of Ledger, MT** District 5 (District 5 is comprised of Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Pondera, Teton and Chouteau Counties.) will then move on to the general election.

**\* You will have 15 days from the date ballots were mailed to return your nominations. After that date, the 3 individuals who received the highest number of votes in each District shall be declared the candidates for the final election. If fewer than 3 receive votes then the one or two members with the highest number of votes shall be declared the candidates.**

**Final Election: Ballots for the final election shall be mailed out no later than December 1, 2024. You will have 15 days to return your ballots. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes from each district shall be declared elected to the office of Director for the term of 3 years.**

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## Upcoming Events:

- Celebrate Ag Week at MSU: November 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> details here: <https://agriculture.montana.edu/celebrateag/>
- Montana Seed Trade Association Winter Convention December 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Bozeman, MT
- MSGA BOD Meeting: January 28, 2025
- MSGA Membership Meeting January 29, 2025

## Office Holidays:

- November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day
- November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving
- December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas
- January 1<sup>st</sup> New Years



Forage HRW Wheat  
Left is Ray and on the Right is  
MT Cash.



Harvest of MT Raska Durum  
on the Bozeman Deaconess  
Hospital Partnership Land

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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