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Spring 2023

A Quarterly Update from the Montana Seed Growers Association

# The Sprout

## Board of Directors

- Jack Lake-President (District 1)
- Bob Hofman- (District 2)
- Cavin Steiger -Vice Pres. (District 3)
- Katie Hatlelid- (District 4)
- Terry Peters (District 5)
- Chad Forest- (District 6)
- Dr. Mike Giroux Ex. Officio

## MSGA Staff

- Heather Unverzagt-Executive Director  
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- Rebecca Papke-Certification Manager  
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## Applications For Certification

Applications for certification of perennial crops and pulse crops are due May 25<sup>th</sup>. Those submitted AFTER May 25<sup>th</sup> will be charged a \$50.00 late fee. Those submitted after June 15<sup>th</sup> will be assessed a \$100.00 late fee. Applications for certification on all other crops are due June 15<sup>th</sup>. Those submitted after June 15<sup>th</sup> will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee and a \$100.00 late fee for those submitted after June 30<sup>th</sup>. **After July 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>.** 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. If you have questions about what you owe, please contact the office.

# MSGA Executive Director Update

## >> Heather Unverzagt

### 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, SY Longmire, Brennan, Reeder, 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. **SY Longmire:** Syngenta variety. PVP Title V. You can plant back your own seed. You may only buy or sell a class of certified seed.
3. **Brennan:** Syngenta variety. PVP Title V. You can plant back your seed. You may only buy or sell a class of certified seed.
4. **Reeder:** NDSU variety. PVP Title V Expired in 2021. You can plant back your own seed and purchase common seed.
5. **Corbin:** WestBred/Bayer variety. PVP. You can plant back your seed, and purchase common 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.**

# MSGA Database:

## **Applications**

Welcome to our 4<sup>th</sup> season of online applications! 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) and click on the seed tracking database link (main page). We are working on posting a how-to video to our website to give a refresher on applications. If you need assistance please call Rebecca or Heather. (Contact info on the first page of the newsletter).

## **Seed Samples:**

Certified, Registered, and Foundation Classes of Seed: If you haven't already noticed you are receiving lab reports from the same system as you receive your field application emails from. This transition started at the first of the year. The Montana State Seed lab is using the MSGA database to test, report, and bill for samples of certified, registered, and foundation classes of seed. **Exception:** MSGA is not currently having the Montana State Seed Lab test perennial crops such as grasses, alfalfa, or other native forbs within MSGA's Database. These lab reports will still be found in PureHarvest. If you have questions on this please contact MSGA.

## **Lab Reports:**

You can now access your lab reports anytime by logging into the MSGA database. You no longer need to wait for a hand-stamped copy to come via mail or email upon request. MSGA is also receiving results for seed samples as soon as they are completed by the Seed Lab. This allows us to evaluate the sample to Montana Standards as soon as possible.

## **Bulk Sales and Tags:**

Bulk certificates are done online. If you are a retailer or selling your own certified seed in bulk and you are not using this system, you need to contact the MSGA office. (this does not apply to common seed).

Tags are still printed in the office and mailed out on a request basis. You can still send in your tag request on your submission paperwork but we prefer if you email your tag requests as you need them.

**Questions?  
Contact MSGA!**

# 2023 Certification Season

## Applications and Perennial Renewals

2023 Perennial rollovers can be done at any time. To roll over your perennial fields, log into the MSGA seed tracking database, under the application tab, you will see "grass application to bring forward". From that tab, you can specify what you would like to happen to your fields for the 2023 season. 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. Using online bulks in the new system? You will need to find and download your bulk cert and then upload it into the application.
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. Note: if you are using a field from 2022 you do not need to re-create your map. You can select it from your list of fields.
3. **Field History:** There will be a place for you to fill out your cropping history online. We will need 2022, 2021, and 2020 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 the 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. These invoices won't go out until the end of June, or the first part of July.
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 growers, but not contractors this year.
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 Board of Directors Meeting Update

The 2023 MSGA BOD meeting was held in Bozeman, MT this year. We have two new Board members, Katie Hatlelid from District 4, and Chad Forest from District 6. Regular yearly board business was discussed, and there were industry representatives at the meeting on the second day. There were no new standard changes or policy changes for 2023. MSGA thanks our Board for continuing to volunteer their time to the organization.

## Montana Seed Growers Association is a proud sponsor of the State FFA Agronomy Contest



**New MSU Foundation grain bins are being installed. MSU foundation seed has continued to improve and add new practices and equipment to ensure Montana growers receive quality Foundation seed from the start.**

Pictured is MSU Foundation Seed's Color sorter.



# Foundation Seed >>Doug Holen



Doug Holen - Montana Foundation Seed Manager  
BranDee Johnston – Crop Variety Promotions and Education Specialist  
WEBSITE - <http://plantsciences.montana.edu/FoundationSeed/>

Winter hit its mark this year as we have had continuous snow cover since the first week in November on the Foundation winter wheat fields. Cold temperatures have limited the ability to run the seed plant in January and February making March a busy time to clean, treat, and deliver seed requests. The Foundation Seed Program continues to upgrade many operation components including bins and an air seeder to handle increased production and pulse crops. We also have added a new production site on the east end of town with a Bozeman Deaconess Hospital partnership. We have a good supply of spring wheats and barleys on hand but are sold out of Dagmar spring wheat, MT Cowgirl forage barley, and MT Blackbeard durum.

Publically released varieties this past January and new in 2023 will be the first Foundation production of MT Boy Howdy feed barley, MT Endurance malt barley, spring wheats MT1939 and MT1809 (yet to be named), and forage winter wheat MTF20189 (also to be named).  
Jump on our website to find production data on the new releases.

BranDee is finishing up what was a whirlwind of trade show events in her first year on the MSU genetics team. Hopefully, you had a chance to meet with her and discuss all things seed production. We will continue to focus on being visible at the 2023 field day events. We are also entering into a new production era. With the assistance of more available land, more bins, bigger and better equipment, and management adjustments we will focus on having much larger stocks of newly released varieties. Working with the Breeders, we now have target amounts of Breeder seed identified in addition to winter increase nurseries in place to put new varieties in a better position for first-year requests. With these changes labor, of course, becomes an issue and we have been granted permission to add a full-time position with MSU Foundation Seed operations. Our goal of continually evolving to increase quality, efficiency, production, and safety makes each day diverse and busy. Many of the improvements we have made in the past eight years are a direct result of visits and conversations with your operations. Thank you for the guidance and interest in making us better.

Wishing you easy calving, good spring moisture, timely rains, seasonal temperatures, safe and prosperous 2023 growing season.

You can contact me at (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, and descriptions.

[LOOK FOR MSU FOUNDATION SEED'S  
BOOTH AT MANY OF THE TRADE SHOWS  
AROUND THE STATE]

Photo credit: BranDee Johnston



## **2023 MAES Field Day Details**

- **Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> @11:30am SARC, Huntley, MT**
- **Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> @8:15am CARC, Moccasin, MT**
- **Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> @3:00pm NARC, Havre, MT**
- **Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup> @10:00am WTARC, Conrad, MT**
- **Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> @8:00am EARC, Sidney, MT**
- **Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> @11:00am NWARC, Creston, MT**
- **Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> @8:00am POST Farms, Bozeman, MT**
- **Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm WARC, Corvallis, MT**