

The Sprout

Montana Seed Growers Association

Winter 2025

An Update From MSGA

As everyone wraps up fall planting, we want to thank all of our members and associates for another great field inspection season. We have been busy finalizing the 2025 certification season and beginning some new and exciting projects here at MSGA.

This year, we chose to move our Board of Directors meeting and Membership Meeting to December. Both meetings will be held on December 3rd in Great Falls/Zoom. We will also have a booth at the Annual Grain Growers Convention—if you are attending, please stop by and say hello.

We hired a new part-time employee in August. Kenzie is also working with the MSU Pulse Breeding Program part time. She will be conducting field inspections in the Bozeman area for the 2026 field inspection season.

A few seasonal reminders: Research fee collection forms were sent to those who grow ND, SD, and MN public varieties. These royalties apply to seed sold between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. If you received one of these forms, please complete it and return it to the MSGA office with a check for the royalties. Please note: MSGA does not collect fees for MSU varieties—those fees are paid through the MSU Foundation Seed Program.

Be sure to register for our seminar series in January as well.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



Our History

The first seed production in Montana was established in the late 1800's when alfalfa was introduced as a forage crop. Not only was it a good forage crop, but the market for alfalfa seed produced in Montana became a lucrative business. Montana growers needed an increased supply of seed to keep pace with demand and at the same time, began to recognize the need for establishing standards of quality in alfalfa seed.

During the Montana State Fair held in Helena, Montana in 1912, seed producers urged that an organization be established for the purpose of developing and administering rules and regulations to maintain the desirable quality of the alfalfa seed grown in Montana. On September 26, 1912, the Montana Seed Growers Association was formed and regulation and standards were established to provide quality seed.

In 1951, the Montana State Legislative session passed into law and set forth in Volume 1, revised codes on Montana, Section 3-809 to 815 inclusive that Montana State University be the designated certification agency for the State, certifying all seed and plant parts except potatoes and mint. Under authority of the act, the responsibility for certifying all field crops except potatoes and mint was delegated by Montana State University to the Montana Seed Growers Association.

An Update From Some of Our Partners

MSU Foundation Seed Program

While many areas of the state received an overabundant amount of rainfall this year, the Bozeman area was very dry and hot with very little rainfall. Even with these conditions in our area, we still had a very good harvest in the Valley. This spring we were fortunate to purchase a new combine with support from the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, the Montana Pulse Crop Committee and the MSU Plant Science Department. With the addition of the combine to our fleet of machinery, we were able to make our harvest more efficient both in the field and in the seed house cleaning seed. A huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped make this purchase possible. Trade show season has started once again so please stop by our booth or find us... we would love to visit with all of you about all the happenings with the MSU Foundation Seed Program. Also, mark your calendars for February 4, 2026. Our annual Variety Release Meeting will be held at 1:00. We look forward to seeing all of you this fall and winter.

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Facebook: @MSUfoundationseed

X (twitter): @MSU_fdnseed



Montana State Seed Testing Laboratory

We at the Montana State Seed Testing Lab hope you have had a bountiful harvest. We are fully staffed and ready to serve your testing needs.

We encourage you to submit your re-germination samples during the months of November and December if possible. Early submission helps us get results for you in plenty of time for spring planting.

As the end of the year approaches you may wish to do some account clean-up if you have been carrying over balances. This will help us keep our accounts receivable clean and could help you prepare for the next tax season. If you have questions regarding your account, please reach out to us.

Many customers are interested in the Western USA noxious weed seed exam. There is some variance between seed labs for which states are included in the Western USA list. For our lab, we consider WA, OR, ID, MT, ND, SD, NE, KS, OK, TX, NM, AZ, UT, CO, NV, CA and WY as western states. We are working with AOSA to determine a uniform list of states that all labs will use.

Other noxious exams available are All-States (USA), individual states, Canadian, and International or ISTA noxious examinations.

Montana noxious is our standard test which included with a purity exam, other noxious exams must be specifically requested.

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A Thank You to Our 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 94,000 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.

Erin Miller
Brian Bedord
Lisa Bedord
Ben Shultice
Michael Morgan
Red Lovec
Roger Hybner
Andrew Lehnerz

Dan Hodges
Madison Hodges
Chad Massar
Brianna Nelson
Mary Nagle
Thad White
Elisha Otis
Larry Holzworth

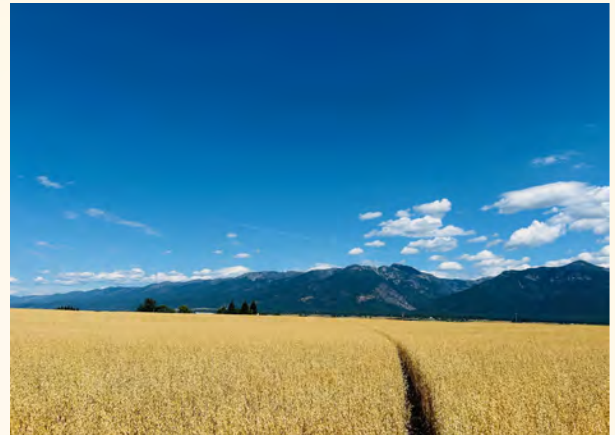


Photo by Roger Hybner

On another note, we are looking to fill an inspector position in northeastern Montana. This position covers Garfield, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Richland, Dawson, Wibaux, and parts of McCone counties. Field inspections start in April and end in September.



Production Fees

Production fees were sent out to contractors at the end of September. Please keep in mind that production fees are due by **April 15, 2026**. Production can be calculated without cleaning seed. Simply deduct 10% for the clean-out 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.



Membership Interest Forms

Thank you to growers and contractors who have filled out and returned their Membership Interest Forms. If you have not completed and returned your form, you are still welcome to submit it anytime. New copies are also available upon request. These forms will help us with our outreach goals, committee planning, and ensure we have your updated contact information.

2026 Seminars

MSGA will start our 2026 Seminar Series on January 6th and it will run through January 27th. Each seminar will be held on Zoom and begin at 9:00 AM MST. Watch for emails with weekly updates, as well as instructions and links to register for the talks. You can also register for seminars on our website.

January 6th — MSGA Seminar Series with **Tiziana Oppedisano**, PhD – Assistant Professor and Extension Agronomic Entomology Specialist.

January 13th — MSGA Seminar Series with **Megan O’Neil**, Laboratory Director at the National Agricultural Genotyping Center.

January 20th — MSGA Seminar Series with **Tim Seipel**, Assistant Research Professor, Cropland Weed Extension Specialist.

January 27th — MSGA Seminar Series with **Raissa Debacker Moura**, PhD – Assistant Professor, Extension Plant Pathologist – “Seed/Soil-borne diseases on pulses and management.”

Upcoming Events

December 2nd & 3rd - Montana Grain Growers Association Annual Convention — Great Falls, MT

December 3rd - MSGA Board Meeting — Zoom

December 3rd - MSGA Membership Meeting — Zoom

December 16th-18th - Montana Seed Trade Association 2025 Winter Conference — Bozeman, MT

February 4 - MSU FSP Variety Release Meeting — Bozeman, MT / WebEX

Office Holidays

November 27th & 28th - Thanksgiving

December 24th & 25th - Christmas

January 1st - New Years

January 19th - Martin Luther King Day

February 16th - Presidents’ Day



MSGA Board of Directors

District 1 — Tim Lake (Ronan, MT)

District 2 — Bob Hofman (Manhattan, MT)

District 3 — Phil Davey (Columbus, MT)

District 4 — Katie Hatlelid (Denton, MT)

District 5 — Terry Peters (Ledger, MT)

District 6 — Chad Forest (Richland, MT)

Ex Officio — Dr. Ryan Thum (Bozeman, MT)



District Elections

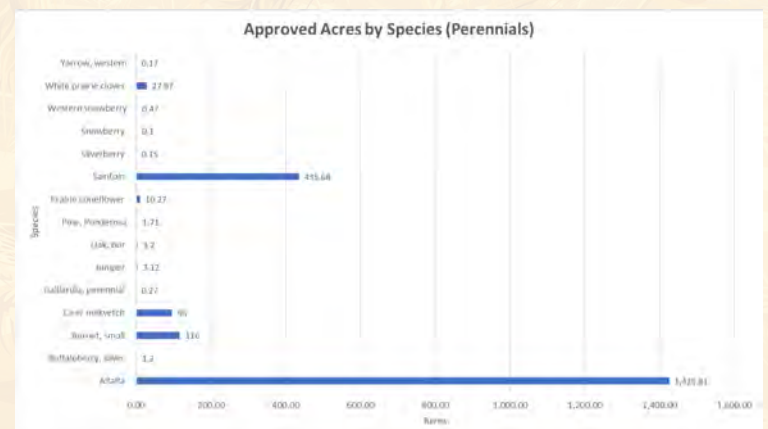
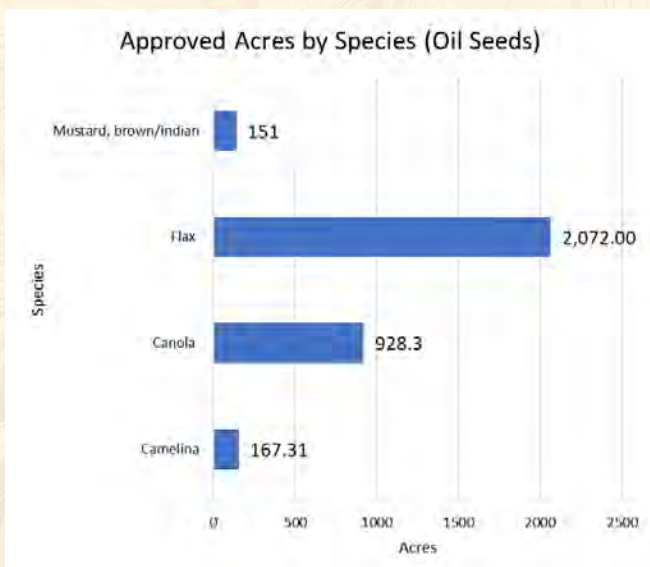
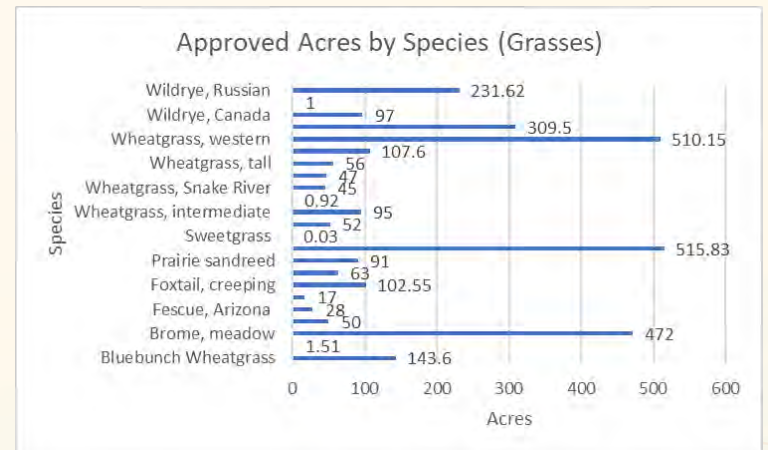
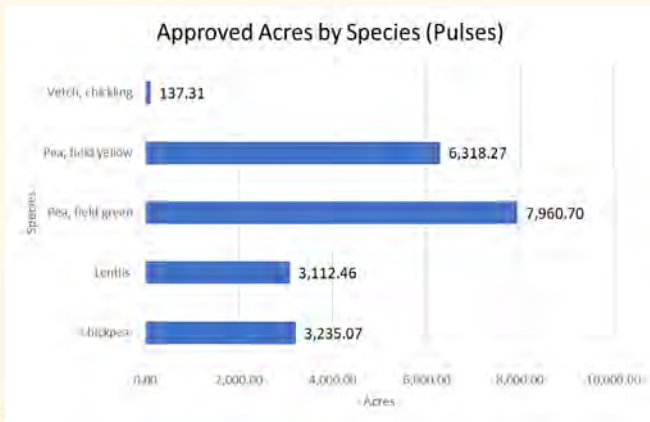
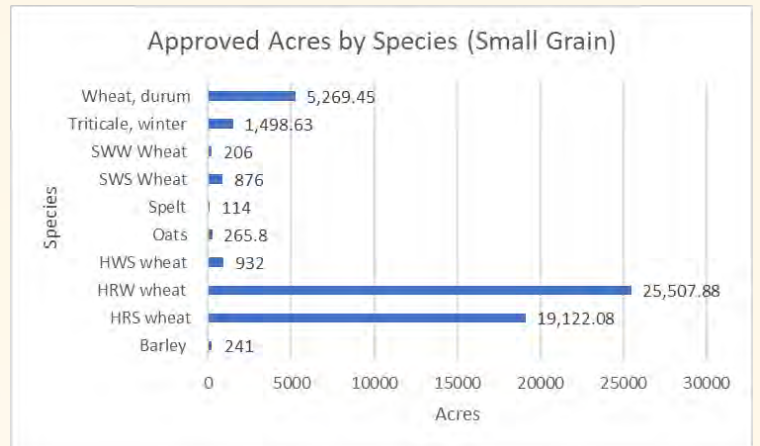
We would like to thank and congratulate Katie Hatlelid who has served as our District 4 director for the past 3 years and has been reelected.

We would like to thank and congratulate Chad Forest who has served as our District 6 director for the past 3 years and has been reelected.

We would like to welcome Dr. Ryan Thum, the Department Head of Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology at Montana State University, as our new Ex Officio director at Montana Seed Growers Association.

Contact information for Board Directors is on our website and listed in the 2025 MSGA Certified Seed Handbook.

2025 Production Review





MSGA Staff

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