
The Sprout

Montana Seed Growers Association

Fall 2026

Happy Fall!

We hope you all had a safe and plentiful harvest, and have been enjoying the beautiful fall weather.

With another field inspection season in the books, we want to extend our sincere appreciation to all our growers and contractors for their continued collaboration and support of the certified seed program. We also want to thank our seasonal field inspectors for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. Their tireless efforts to cover the many acres enrolled in the program are greatly appreciated.

This year, we saw a significant increase in pulse crop acres, which made for an especially busy start to the field inspection season.

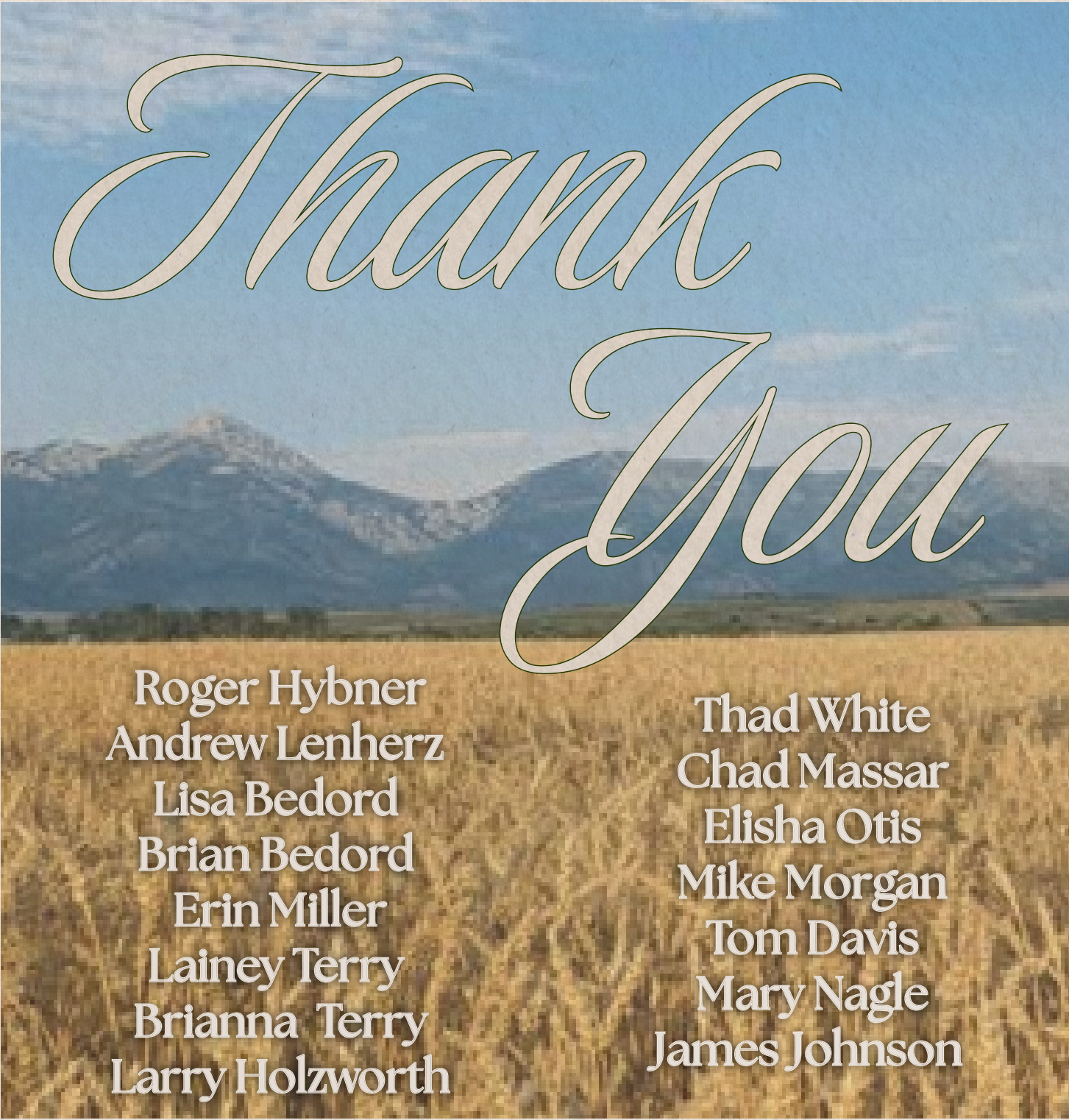
As winter wheat planting is underway, we want to remind growers to double-check their seed paperwork and variety protections. When purchasing or selling certified seed, be sure you have the appropriate certified seed tag or bulk certificate.



Additionally, always review any Plant Variety Protection (PVP) restrictions and private variety agreements, including requirements such as single-season use, certified seed only, or no plant-back provisions. Understanding these restrictions before planting can help prevent issues down the road.

If you are ever unsure about the protections or agreements associated with a particular variety, please contact your local seed dealer or the MSGA office. We are always happy to help.

Thank you again for your continued support of Montana's certified seed program. We wish you all a wonderful fall and a successful start to the next growing season.



Thank You

Roger Hybner
Andrew Lenherz
Lisa Bedord
Brian Bedord
Erin Miller
Lainey Terry
Brianna Terry
Larry Holzworth

Thad White
Chad Massar
Elisha Otis
Mike Morgan
Tom Davis
Mary Nagle
James Johnson

We would like to take a moment to recognize and thank our field inspectors for all their hard work and dedication this summer and over the years.

We understand that field inspections require significant time, attention to detail, and a strong commitment to quality and safety. Your diligence and hard work play an vital role in keeping our program moving forward while helping us maintain the high standards we strive for in the Montana seed industry.

Thank you for the care, expertise, and commitment you bring to your work every day. Your efforts are valued and appreciated, and we are truly grateful for everything you do to help make our program successful.

Production Fees

2026 MSGA production fees were mailed out to contractors at the end of September.

Please keep in mind that 2026 production fees are due by April 15, 2027.

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 or look online at www.mtseedgrowers.org.

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

Please email or call Kenzie for a digital copy of your production fees. Please email or call Rebecca for payment or final related questions.

Research Fees

MSGA is responsible for collecting research fees on some varieties for other states. Letters will be sent out to those who grew varieties with research fee agreements associated with them. That include South Dakota, North Dakota: Both North Dakota Crop Improvement Association, and North Dakota Research Foundation, and Minnesota. You will report the seed you sold between July 01, 2025, and June 30, 2026. These are the sales that you will owe the royalties on.

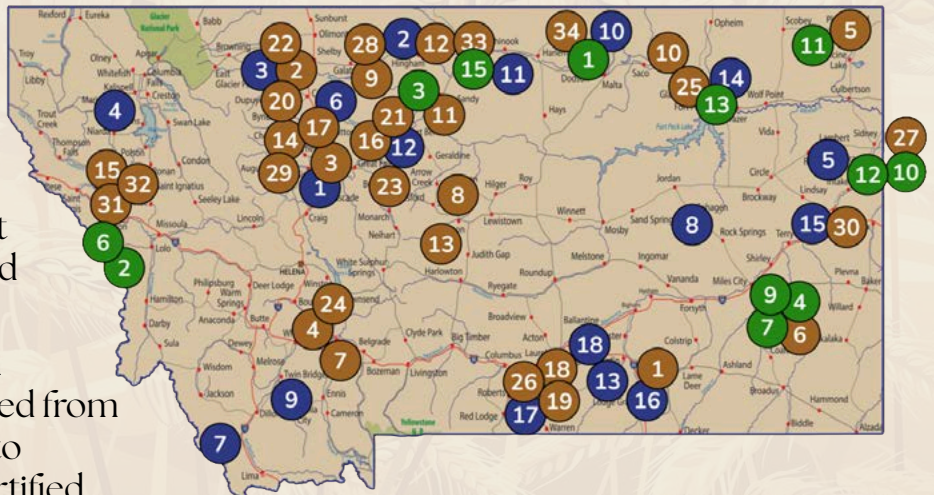
Please make sure you send back the completed sheet with payment to MSGA. MSGA will then distribute funds to the appropriate parties. If you have any questions please reach out to Rebecca.

MSGA does not collect for Montana State University. Doug Holen (MSU Foundation Seed Program Director) is the individual who will collect all MSU variety fees. Please contact Doug at 406-404-5726 or douglas.holen@montana.edu if you have questions about MSU varieties.

Cleaning & Handling Applications

Cleaning and Handling facilities received blank Renewal forms this year. This is so we can update contact information for active cleaning and handling facilities. Updated and accurate contact information is important because it will be included in the 2026 Certified Seed Directory.

Companies no longer working with certified seed, can opt to be removed from the list and will no longer owe fees to MSGA or be listed in the MSGA Certified Seed Directory.



2026 MSGA Board Meeting

Our annual board meeting will be held in Great Falls and on Zoom on November 30th at 8:30 AM MST. We encourage all MSGA members to attend the board meeting via Zoom. The link to register for the meeting is on the MSGA website <https://mtseedgrowers.org/>. To find the link, go to our home page and scroll down until you see upcoming events. We will send a reminder about the board meeting through ConstantContact in November. Please call the office if you have any trouble registering.

We will also have a booth at the Montana Grain Growers Association Annual Convention again this year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Committees

- Now that the busy inspection season has come to a close, we have been working on committees again. On the membership forms sent out last year, there were boxes that you could check to indicate your interest in being on committees. If your committee interests have changed, please call or email and we can update that information.
- We will start off with the Small Grains committee and the Pulse Crop committee to begin updating small grain and pulse crop standard in the MSGA handbook. We will most often be in touch with committee members by Zoom and email.
- Currently most changes to the Standards will be clarifying language and adding additional details to existing standards. At this time there are no plans to make any significant changes to the Standards.
- After initial edits are made by MSGA staff, the new drafts will be sent out to committee members for a review period. During the review period committee members can submit comments and suggest edits.
- The final draft will be presented for approval to the MSGA board of directors before being updated in the official MSGA Seed Certification Standards handbook.

2026 MSGA Scholarships

At the Fall 2025 Board of Directors meeting, MSGA proposed establishing a scholarship program offering awards of up to \$2,000 to students pursuing degrees in agriculture or other fields that support and strengthen agricultural and rural communities in Montana. We are pleased to report that the scholarship received an overwhelming response for our first year, with 29 applications submitted.

We would like to thank our board members for taking the time to carefully consider all of the applications. The quality of the applications made the selection process especially challenging. Each applicant demonstrated impressive accomplishments, goals, and a commitment to their future and rural Montana.

After careful consideration, three exceptionally deserving students were selected to receive scholarships. We are excited to support the next generation of professionals who will contribute to the future of Montana agriculture, our rural communities, and the seed industry. See the recipients of the 2026 MSGA Scholarship on the following page.

Brianna Terry

Big Sandy, MT

Brianna is the recipient of our \$1,000 scholarship. She has been working as a MSGA field inspector this past summer. Brianna is studying business administration and accounting at MSU Northern. After graduation she plans to help support her family's business Golden Harvest Seeds in Big Sandy, MT with her education, as well as other ag and rural businesses in Montana.



Eli Arganbright

Carter, MT

Eli is the recipient of our first \$500 scholarships. He is a 5th generation farmer working along side his grandfather, uncle, father, and brother. Eli is studying ag business and precision ag at Montana State University. After graduation he plans to return home to Carter, MT and run his family farm with his brother.

Kaeden Wolery

Inverness, MT

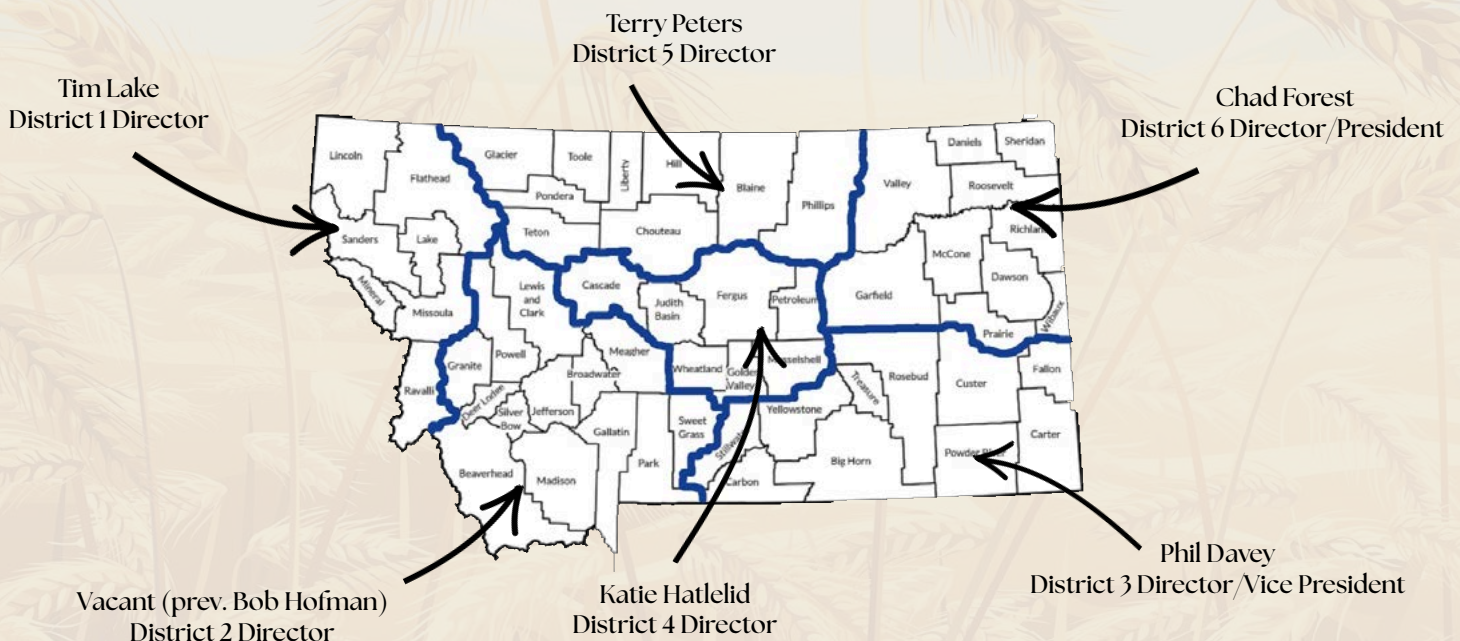
Kaeden is the recipient of our second \$500 scholarships. He has been working to support the Montana seed industry through his employment with 7W Farms in Inverness, MT. Kaeden is studying diesel technology and agricultural mechanics technology at MSU Northern. After graduation he plans to continue supporting his community through his work as a diesel/heavy machinery mechanic for local farmers and ranchers.



MSGA Board of Directors Elections

We will be holding elections for Board Directors in districts 2 and 3. We encourage all eligible members to participate. This election is an important opportunity for members to participate in the future direction of our organization and to select individuals who will represent the membership and help guide MSGA. Your vote is an important part of ensuring strong leadership and continued success for our organization.

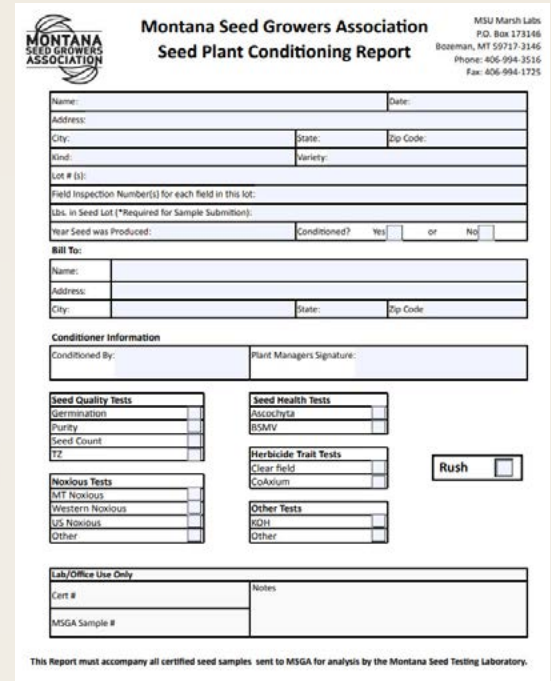
- All growers from Districts 2 and 3 who grew certified seed through MSGA during the 2026 growing season are eligible to vote. Ballots were sent out for director nominations in mid September to all eligible MSGA members.
- Any grower living within the two districts who has been a member/grower of MSGA for the last three consecutive years (as shown by signing an Application for Certification) may be elected to serve as director. Eligible nominees for District 2 and 3 were listed on the nomination ballots.
- Voting members will have 15 days from the date ballots were mailed to return nomination ballots. 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 individuals receive votes then the one or two members with the highest number of votes shall be declared the candidates. If more than 3 individuals have equal nominations, all tied individuals with the highest number of votes will advance to the final ballot.
- Final Election: Ballots for the final election will be mailed out in late October and again, you will have 15 days to return your ballots from the date you received the ballot. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for that district shall be declared elected to the office of Director for the term of 3 years.



Dr. Ryan Thum
Ex Officio, MSGA Board of Directors

Submitting Samples

- It is important that all samples for MSGA include the correct paperwork. Submitting your sample(s) with completed Cleaning and Conditioning form(s) ensures that we enter the correct information into the database and give the lab the correct information. It also ensures that your sample will be processed in a timely manner. The newest version of the Cleaning and Conditioning form is available on the MSGA website. We can also email you a copy upon request.
- Please do not put paperwork in the sample bag if the seed is treated. Instead staple or tape the paperwork to the outside of the bag or double bag the sample so the treated seed and paperwork are separate.
- Putting the paperwork in the sample bag is great option for seed that is not treated.
- Labeling sample bags is important in case the paperwork becomes separated from the sample during shipping.
- Contact the MSGA office if you need more canvas sample bags or regerm envelopes.
- Visit the MSGA website to review required tests and standards for certified seed.
- At least 2.5 lbs is required for a purity test.
- All **white wheat** lots require a KOH (potassium hydroxide) test to detect the presence of unwanted red wheat kernels in a white wheat seed lots.
- All **foundation barley** lots require a BSMV (barley stripe mosaic virus) test.
- All **chickpea and lentil** lots require an Ascochyta test.
- A MT noxious weed exam is always included with a purity. Please remember to select the type of noxious weed exam you need for that lot (ex: MT noxious for seed staying in Montana, or a western noxious or a US noxious for seed leaving Montana).
- The lab can get very busy in January and February. During this period you may be waiting slightly longer for results while the lab works hard to process so many samples. Sending samples in during November and December can help prevent delays.
- Visit the Montana State Seed Testing Lab website for more information:
<https://plantsciences.montana.edu/seedlab/>
 - Including the updated Seed Lab fees that went into effect on July 1, 2026.
 - Sampling procedures
 - Tests and services provided
 - Phone: (406) 994-2141 Email: seedlab@montana.edu



The form is titled "Montana Seed Growers Association Seed Plant Conditioning Report". It includes contact information for MSU Marsh Labs in Bozeman, MT. The form is divided into several sections: "Name" and "Date" fields; "Address", "City", "State", and "Zip Code" fields; "Kind" and "Variety" fields; "Lot # (s)" field; "Field Inspection Number(s) for each field in this lot:" field; "Lbs. in Seed Lot (*Required for Sample Submission)" field; "Year Seed was Produced:" and "Conditioned?" (Yes/No) fields; "Bill To:" section with "Name:", "Address:", "City:", "State:", and "Zip Code:" fields; "Conditioner Information" section with "Conditioned By:" and "Plant Managers Signature:" fields; "Seed Quality Tests" section with checkboxes for Germination, Purity, Seed Count, and T2; "Seed Health Tests" section with checkboxes for Ascochyta and BSMV; "Herbicide Trait Tests" section with checkboxes for Clear field and CoXium; "Other Tests" section with checkboxes for KOH and Other; "Lab/Office Use Only" section with "Cert #", "MSGA Sample #", and "Notes" fields; and a "Rush" checkbox. A footer note states: "This Report must accompany all certified seed samples sent to MSGA for analysis by the Montana Seed Testing Laboratory."

PESTICIDE WEBINAR SERIES



PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

PRECISION AGRICULTURE IN MONTANA

November 5: 12-1 pm

Dr. Ricardo Pinto, MSU Extension

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MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR HERBICIDE RESISTANT KOCHIA

November 19: 12-1 pm

Dr. Tim Seiple, MSU Extension

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AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT IN MONTANA: REGULATIONS, IPM AND KEY SPECIES

December 3: 12-1 pm

Thomas Woolf and Craig McLane,
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

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BASICS OF NON-SOIL FUMIGATION FOR MONTANA PRIVATE APPLICATORS

December 10: 1-2 pm

Dr. Cecil Tharp, MSU Extension

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Online registration required.

Pesticide license credits available.

View more info using the QR code or link below.

www.montana.edu/extension/pesticides/events/webinar.html

MSGA January 2027 Seminar Series

Pesticide license credits available for each seminar.

MSGA will be hosting a seminar series in January again in 2027. There will be four different guest presenters that will cover a variety of topics intended to provide new information and resources to help Montana growers.

When?

Every Tuesday in January
at 10 AM MST

A link to register will be on our website like last year. You can find it on the MSGA home page if you scroll down.
<https://mtseedgrowers.org/>

Where?

Zoom

More information will be sent out via ConstantContact as we get closer to January. Updates will include presentation details and pesticide points specifics.

Upcoming Events

Montana State University Celebrate Ag Week - Bozeman - October 25-31

Veteran's Day (office closed) - November 11

Montana Farm Bureau 107th Annual Convention - Billings - November 15-17

Thanksgiving (office closed) - November 26-27

Montana Seed Growers Association Annual Board Meeting - Great Falls/Zoom - November 30

Montana Grain Growers Association Annual Convention & Trade Show - Great Falls - December 1-3

Christmas (office closed) - December 24-25

New Year (office closed) - December 31 - January 1

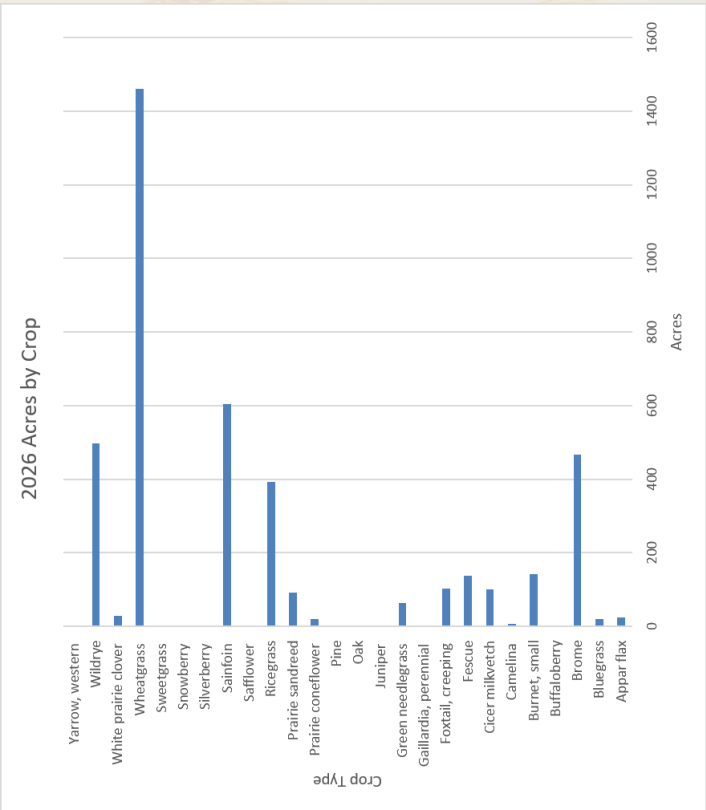
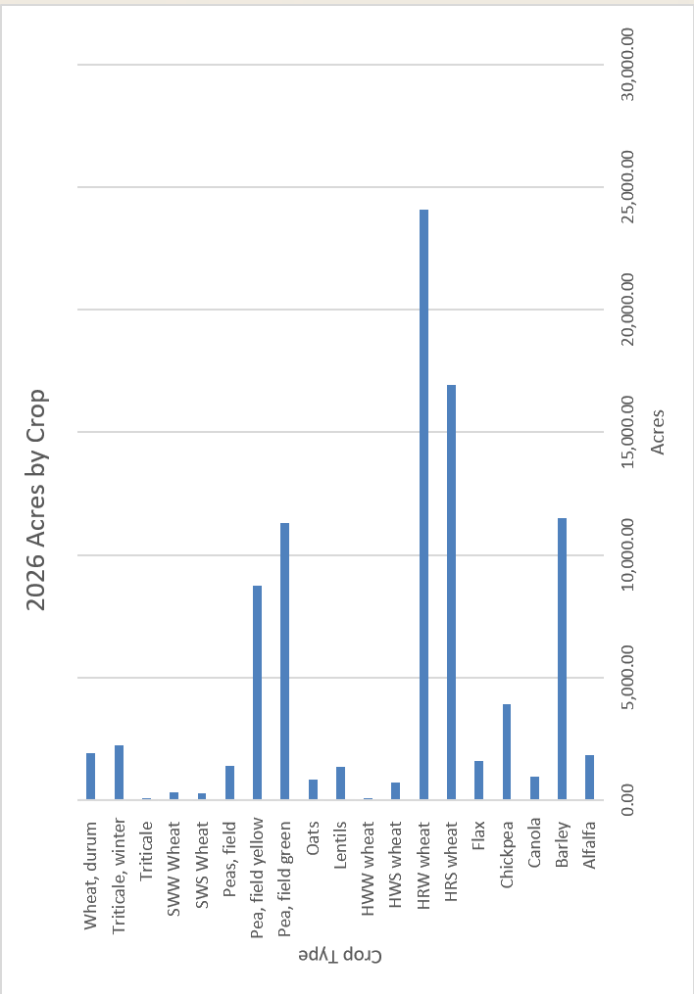
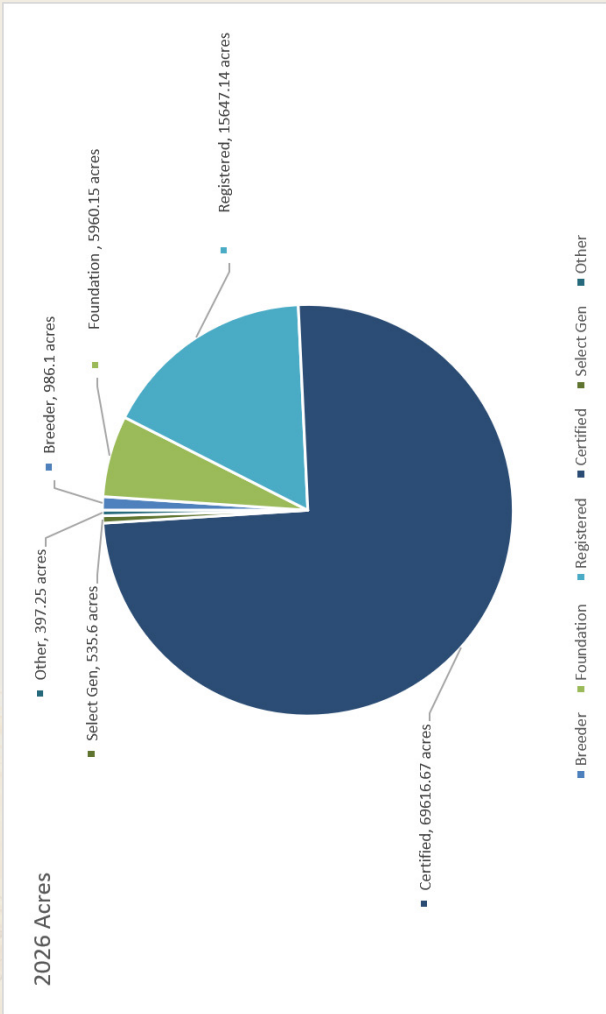
MSU Extension Crop and Pest Management School - Bozeman - January 13-14

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (office closed) - January 18

MSU Foundation Seed Program Variety Release Meeting - Bozeman/WebEx - February 3

Presidents' Day (office closed) - February 15

2026 Growing Season



2026 Growing Season



BY 7204LL - Hybrid Canola



MT Cash - Hard Red Winter Wheat



MT Meadowlark - Hard Red Winter Wheat



PG Greenback - Pea, field green



Trailhead II - Basin Wildrye



LCS Saturn - Winter Barley

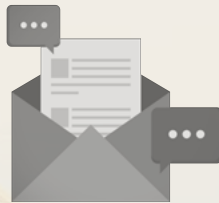


MSGA Staff

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Certification Manager — Rebecca Papke
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(406) 994-5121

Program Coordinator — Kenzie Crew
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(406) 994-3516



Contact MSGA

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Bozeman MSU
Marsh Labs
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Bozeman, Montana 59717-3146

Shipping Address for UPS & FedEx

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