



The North Dakota Seed Journal

SEPTEMBER 2011

Newsletter of the North Dakota State Seed Department

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New Bulk Certificates to be Used This Year

Steve Sebesta, Deputy Commissioner

Multi-part carbonless forms will soon be a thing of the past and beginning this fall the Seed Department will begin printing bulk certificates on a single sheet of paper. Understanding that change is sometimes difficult, we sought input from users. Two potential formats were presented to the ND Crop Improvement and Seed Association Certified Seed Committee at the annual meeting in February. After some explanation of the merits of the new process and valuable discussion of the pros and cons of each option, the committee recommended that the department proceed with development and implementation of the selected format.

The new bulk certificates will be a single sheet, perforated into two parts. The top half of the form is the seller's record of the sales transaction, while the bottom half is the buyer's copy. Identical information will be duplicated on the top and bottom halves of the form at the time of printing. The labeler information will be pre-printed on the certificate the same as before. The labeler will complete the form in the same manner as they have in the past, with the buyer's name, number of bushels, etc. Since this is a single sheet, the buyer information must also be filled in on the bottom part of the sheet as well. After the form is completed the seller will simply separate the form, give the bottom half of the sheet to the buyer, and retain the top half for their records.

In addition, we will begin using a log form for each lot of seed certified. The log form will list the certification information for that specific seed lot and list each bulk certificate issued for that lot. This log form will eliminate the need to retain and submit the "yellow" copies of the bulk certificate as you were required to do previously. Instead, retailers will simply record each sale on the log form and when the entire seed lot is sold, or you run out of bulk certificates, you will simply return the log form to the department. If you need additional bulk certificates, we'll also send you a new log form.

As a result of this change, one piece of paper replaces several, and you won't have to keep track of all those yellow copies. As an example, if you request ten bulk certificates, each consisting of three parts, you would handle thirty pieces of paper. With the new system, you'll handle 11 pieces, and your record keeping chores will be more efficient.

So, when implemented in the near future, upon completing final certification of a seed lot, the labeler will receive (a) one single-sheet bulk certificate for each bulk cert requested (b) one log sheet listing all the bulk certificates issued, and (c) one bin label to be affixed to the bin in which that seed is stored.

We anticipate that this change will simplify handling bulk certified seed.

North Dakota State

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Seed Department

The North Dakota Seed Journal is published and edited by the Seed Department, State of North Dakota, under the provisions of Chap. 258, S.L. 1931, as administrative and instrumental matter required for effective transaction of the Department's business and for properly fostering the general welfare of the seed industry in the state.

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Alfredo Kido (L) examines a field of Shepody potatoes with Mark Thompson (C) and Rudi Sass (R).

Colleague from Chile Visits ND

Willem Schrage, Potato Program Director

At the invitation of Dr. Gary Secor of the NDSU Plant Pathology Department, Alfredo Kido Alvarez, supervisor of seed inspection in Osorno, Chile visited North Dakota in July. Alfredo covers Los Lagos region in southern Chile. While in North Dakota, Mr. Kido shared a week with Seed Department inspectors. The first day of his arrival Mr. Kido was introduced to the tissue

Colleague from Chile continued on page 3

From the Commissioner's Desk

One of my favorite sayings comes from my days in government relations. "What's the definition of a lobbyist? The same as a neutered cat: always hanging around the action, but only in an advisory capacity." Not too profound, but sort of humorous.

Most of us, based on experience or expertise in certain fields, apply this same logic to various jobs, duties and responsibilities. Very often, a decision or judgment must also be tailored to the circumstances surrounding the issue. There are times when we all offer some guidance, based on our best estimate of the situation at hand.

The seed certification world is governed, for the most part, by black-and-white rules and standards. Looking broadly at the industry this year, where we are all doing business in a situation that has no parallel or precedent to guide us, there is little history to help foresee the future. Which leads me back to the original point: we may know what needs to be done, but may have a tough time doing anything but offering some guidance.

So, based on a year when we are inspecting 30% fewer acres than normal, and fear the (potential) adverse impacts on the ag industry in 2012, here are the best advisory points we can offer... phrased in a do's and don'ts manner.

DO: Start checking seed supplies early. Check the Seed Directory when it becomes available, and book next year's seed as soon as possible.

Ken Bertsch..... State Seed Commissioner
Steve Sebesta..... Deputy Seed Commissioner
Willem Schrage Director, Potato Program
Joe Magnusson.....Field Seed Program Manager
Mark HafdahlSeed Laboratory Manager
Jeff Prischmann..... Diagnostic Laboratory Manager
Kris Steussy Administrative Officer
Mike OosterwijkPotato Program Supervisor

DON'T: Depend on a variety being available. It's not rocket science to predict that there will be shortages of certain varieties, even certain kinds of seed. The best example of this situation is in edible beans and barley, where we have inspected about 35% of last year's production. Add durum to the short-supply list.

DO: Treat all potential seed sources with care.

DON'T: Apply pre-harvest glyphosate to ANYTHING intended for seed use; Fail to check seed in storage; Damage seed (especially fragile crops) by over-drying; Assume the grain you harvested in early September will "do in a pinch".

These issues are all no-brainers, yet we see the results of all of these practices negatively impact seed lots every year. This year (again, with the rocket science business), the probable late harvest will pressure growers to attempt all of these and assume that they can pull off reasonable seed quality. Lord help me, but this applies to bin-run sources too.

DO: Communicate the possibility of seed shortages to customers and commercial growers. Encourage the previously-mentioned early booking of seed or correct treatment of possible bin-run sources.

DON'T: Depend on commercial growers to think ahead. Not that they can't foresee a problem; but they will be wrapped up in trying to get a late crop off the field. This holds true for nearly every crop grown in the state this year, whether the seed is grown in North Dakota or not. There are few areas in the country that haven't faced some sort of adverse production problem this year.

DON'T: Accept that brown-bagged seed is a foregone conclusion or a natural or acceptable outcome to short supplies.

There is another great saying in this particular situation: "Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine." Variety owners DESERVE to have the protections afforded by PVP honored by the agriculture industry. We (as the regulatory agency responsible for labeling and PVP) have made a renewed commitment to all of our variety owners, public and private, to enforce their rights to the best of our ability. The seed industry should not expect or accept any excuse for cheating the system due to shorter and/or higher priced seed supplies.

And lastly, DO have a safe and profitable harvest season



Reminders...

Research fees are due September 15. If you have not already done so, please remit payment promptly to the Seed Department for seed labeled in your name, sold through June 30, 2011. Do not pay your county crop improvement or ag association. The only way we can correctly reconcile your account is if the report form and check are sent directly to the Seed Department. Research fee reports must be returned even if no sales occurred. Thanks to those of you who have already paid your fees.

Applications due October 1 for seed conditioning and bulk retail facility permits.

Really Important Reminder

No certified seed labels will be issued until all lab tests required for certification are completed. This includes tests for seed-borne pathogens, purity exams, germination tests and variety ID tests. While purity exams can be done quickly, everything else takes time. Please plan ahead!

Wet Growing Conditions May Mean More Seed Borne Diseases

Jeff Prischmann, Diagnostic Lab Manager

Wet growing conditions in many areas of North Dakota during this growing season may lead to increased levels of many seed borne diseases. Seed producers need to be on alert for seed borne diseases during the growing season and during harvest.

Cereal crops such as wheat are more susceptible to scab during wet growing conditions. Pulse crops such as field pea, chickpea, and lentil can be affected by *Ascochyta* during wet periods and seed can become easily infected. Edible bean producers need to be aware of bacterial blight and anthracnose. Anthracnose can be particularly devastating in the field. Large areas of bean fields can be rapidly killed by anthracnose. Wind driven rain easily moves spores in the field to neighboring plants causing rapid spread.

As harvest approaches, growers should be alert for these diseases. Seed testing can identify these pathogens and the levels present in the seed. The North Dakota State Seed Department Diagnostic Lab is able to test for many of these pathogens in seed. Growers should contact the department with any questions regarding seed health testing.



2011 Seed Quality Expectations

Mark Hafdahl, Seed Lab Manager

My expectations for this year's seed crop are not very high. In most cases planting was very late and we've had a very wet summer so far. I have heard reports that scab is a real problem in wheat and durum fields. That damage is already done but can be dealt with in the seed cleaning process. If you need to dry your seed, remember to keep the temperature below 120F. The soybean crop may be immature unless we get a very late frost.

One of the fears I have is that as fall approaches, seed producers may be tempted to apply a pre-harvest application of glyphosate to get the crop ready for harvest. This practice can be very costly. Last year we did a germination test on an otherwise good looking sample of wheat and came up with a 39% germination. The grower contacted me and admitted he had sprayed the crop with glyphosate. Don't make a bad year worse; keep the sprayer away from your seed fields.

If you have seed left over from last spring, you may want to save it for next year. Generally, cereals can be carried over for a year or two before losing viability if the storage conditions are good. Soybeans and peas may be good for one year but I wouldn't expect any more. As always, get your seed tested. We are here to serve you.



Lab Fees Increase October 1

Acting on the recommendations of department management, the Seed Commission approved increases in most of the laboratory testing fees at its summer meeting. Fees for all services are analyzed periodically and compared to break-even levels. The last fee increase was in 2008. Since then, input costs (materials and labor) have increased significantly, prompting the increases. The new fees will be published on our website October 1.

Bin Label Program Expanded

Steve Sebesta, Deputy Commissioner

Last September, we introduced bin labels to help ensure proper labeling of bulk certified seed. North Dakota seed certification regulations require that all bulk bins containing certified seed must be labeled with kind, variety, class and lot number. Labels were provided to all North Dakota approved bulk retailers and conditioners.

During the course of the regulatory inspections and sampling last winter, our inspectors checked bins to determine how well the vinyl product withstood our harsh winter conditions. Reports indicate the labels held up perfectly as planned so we decided to expand the labeling program.

Beginning this year, we will provide one label for each lot of bulk certified seed at no cost to the labeler. The label will accompany the bulk certificates. It is the labeler's responsibility to ensure the label is placed on the proper bin promptly upon receipt.

We will also make additional labels available on request to assist growers and retailers in properly identifying seed. These labels will be available at a cost of \$1 each. If you want additional bin labels simply call the department and place an order.



Colleague from Chile continued from page 1

culture facility and greenhouse and the department's database. It became clear that the administrative part of the office in Chile was very up to date when Mr. Kido asked whether North Dakota growers could find results of field inspections on the department's website, similar to the process in his office in Chile.

Mr. Kido stayed in the Grand Forks area during the rest of his stay. He went through the training plot of Mike Oosterwijk, where he found the viruses and recognized some chipping varieties that were also grown in his country. The State Seed Department gave him the opportunity to walk seed potato fields with the seed potato inspectors Francis Longtine, Rudi Sass, Graham Smith and Oosterwijk. It did not take long for the inspectors and their overseas colleague to gain a mutual respect. It became clear that leaf roll was a bigger problem in Chile than in North Dakota. Mr. Kido agreed that the ND approach to reduce PVY problems by growing the higher generations under isolation seemed to be working. He appreciated the department's willingness to share our approach to potato inspection. During our final discussions Mr. Kido expressed his gratitude to everyone in the North Dakota potato industry who had made his visit a worthwhile experience. The State Seed Department has gained a friend in a faraway place.

Certified Seed Promotions

Steve Sebesta, Deputy Commissioner

Each fall, Neal Foster, director of the South Dakota Crop Improvement Association, Ben Lang, president of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association and I meet to discuss issues that are mutually important to our agencies. Topics usually range from certification regulations, field inspection procedures, lab services, administrative processes, and new business opportunities. Though our businesses are different, we all agree that certified seed is a tremendous value and that new seed should be a part of every producer's production plans every year.

Last fall we agreed to collaborate on the production of a poster promoting certified seed use. In North Dakota, the poster will be distributed to all approved certified seed conditioners, and bulk retail facilities during their annual inspection. We believe it effectively communicates the benefits of certified seed and we encourage facility managers to display the posters prominently in areas your customers will see it.

The Seed Department invests approximately \$80,000 each year for certified seed promotions on behalf of seed growers, conditioners and retailers. We'll continue to provide resources to help your seed business succeed.



2011 Regulatory Sampling

Joe Magnusson, Field Seed Program Manager

Department regulatory inspectors drew 1,379 samples for truth in labeling testing. "Stop Sale" orders were issued on 64 seed lots that were improperly labeled or found to be out of tolerance with label claims. The following is a breakdown of the "Stop Sales" issued:

Out of date labels.....	51	Excess other crop.....	2
Low germination	10	Excess inert matter...	1

We found one sample of wheat that did not test true to variety. Upon further investigation we found the bin was not thoroughly cleaned before the seed was delivered.

Seed Sales Reports and Permits

The annual reporting form for seed sales was sent to permit holders June 28 and should have been returned to our office by July 30. If you have not returned your form, please do so as soon as possible. The reporting form must be returned even if no sales were made during the reporting period. If you no longer sell seed and wish to cancel your permit, check the appropriate box at the top of the form and return it to our office. There are 63 certified seed growers that do not have a permit to sell seed. An application for a permit and the reporting form will be sent to these growers.

Re-write of Seed Laws Approved by Legislature

During the previous interim legislative session, the Seed Department and members of the interim agriculture committee worked to re-write and reorganize North Dakota Century Code concerning state seed laws. The interim committee avoids making major changes to code during re-writes; the intent of the re-write was to update obsolete or outdated language. The re-write has been completed and approved during the recently-completed legislative session and enacted August 1. Now, the department has nine months to update administrative rules for congruence with the new seed law.

During the process many of the sections were reorganized and renumbered and the old chapters were repealed. Chapters 4-09, 4-09.1, 4-25 and 4-42 are **now 4.1-53**. If you had links to these chapters on your computer previously, you will now find those links do not work. We encourage everyone interested in ND seed laws to become familiar with the new document and bear with us as we also learn where previous laws are now located within the new law.

The new seed laws can be found at www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t04-1c53.pdf or on the NDSSD website, www.ndseed.com

Tips for Submitting Seed Samples

When submitting a sample to the Seed Department it is extremely important to provide all the required information. Incomplete or inaccurate information will result in delays due to follow-up work for us to call for the information. We cannot process a sample for testing until we have the required information. Here are a few tips to remember when you submit samples.

For common seed or certified samples submitted for preliminary testing:

1. Use the manila envelopes (available from our office).
2. Include a return address so we know who to send the results to.
3. Identify the kind, variety and lot number.
4. Identify which tests you want conducted. Consult Bulletin 51 or our website for specific test requirements.
5. Identify field-inspected seed with the current field application number (e.g. S1101234) — **not** the lot number of the seed that was planted. Pre-germ samples lacking field identification will not be accepted for final certification.
6. If we are supposed to send a copy of results to someone else, or bill someone else, let us know.
7. Submit enough seed for all the tests you want done. See our website (www.ndseed.com) for sample size requirements for specific tests.

For samples submitted for final certification:

1. Use the plastic sample bags
2. Complete a Sampler's Report for each lot (**remember — each bin is a separate lot and requires a separate sample**).
3. Be sure to fill in all blanks on the Sampler's Report, especially the field number(s) that make up the lot.
4. List the tests to be conducted.
5. If we are supposed to use test results from a pre-germ, or a disease test that was previously done on the lot you are submitting, be sure to provide those test numbers so we don't repeat those tests.
6. If the sample submitted for final certification includes more fields than the pre-germ sample represented or different field numbers, new germ and disease tests (if required) are required.
7. If the seed is being re-tested or has been re-conditioned, be sure to provide the certification number from the initial sample.
8. Have the Grower's Declaration signed, if required.
9. Insert the paperwork into the sleeve with our mailing address visible.
10. Fill the plastic bag with seed, making certain to seal the zip-loc seal as well as the second, adhesive seal.

Consult the North Dakota Approved Seed Conditioner's Manual for more details or call 701-231-5400.

Tips for Completing Seed Sampler's Reports

Joe Magnusson, Field Seed Program Manager

While grading seed for final certification, we often run into recurring problems that, if addressed properly on the Sampler's Report, would prevent some of those issues from becoming problems. The most common are listed below.

Labeler: use the correct name of how the seed is to be labeled. Don't abbreviate. Use the name as it is listed in the Seed Directory or, ask the grower how he wants the seed labeled. Our computer system has several different contact names for growers, farms, and seed retailers.

Class of Seed: if you downgrade a seed lot from Registered to Certified, make a note indicating your intent below the class or write in the instructions that you are downgrading this lot of seed.

Field Inspection Application Numbers: only use the field numbers that are associated with the bin of seed you are conditioning. Do not look in the Seed Directory and simply write down all the fields that passed inspection for that grower. When growers send seed in for preliminary testing, they must include the fields that are associated with that bin of seed and if they want to use that sample for labeling, the field numbers on their sample and the field numbers on the samplers report must match.

Bulk Seed: each bin is a separate and unique lot and a representative sample and Sampler's Report is required for each bin that is to be certified.

Bulk Certificates and Fees: make it clear who is to receive the certificates or tags sent and who is to receive the bill for certification.

Preliminary Testing: if the grower is using a previously tested sample for labeling, the sample number you indicate on the report must contain the same field number(s) you put on the Sampler's Report. Verify with the labeler that he included the field numbers on his pretest sample. If he did not include them or the numbers do not match, new testing is required.

Interagency Certification: if you are conditioning and labeling seed in North Dakota that was purchased from a grower in another state, the grower must supply you with a Transfer of Seed Pending Certification form that was approved by the certification agency in that state. The form must accompany the sample submitted for final certification.

Grower's Declaration: if North Dakota field inspected seed is to be labeled by someone other than the applicant for field inspection, the applicant grower must sign the grower's declaration before the seed will be certified. Please try to get this information at the time of conditioning to avoid delay in testing and final certification.

North Dakota State Seed Department

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NDSSD Calendar

Sept. 13-15.. Big Iron Farm Show, Fargo

Sept. 15..... Research fees due

Oct. 1 Unconditioned Carryover Seed Report due

Oct. 1 Applications due for approved seed conditioners and bulk retailers

Nov. 29-30 .. NDAA Northern Ag Expo, Fargodome

Dec. 5 SW District Crop Improvement Association, Mandan

Dec. 6 NW District Crop Improvement Association, Minot

Dec. 9 NE District Crop Improvement Association, Lakota

Dec. 12 SE District Crop Improvement Association, Casselton