



PRO CO-OP

AG CENTER



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Capital Credit Checks to be Distributed

Capital credit checks will be distributed at the end of March, providing members with their share of the cooperative's margins. This year's distribution reflects the cooperative's strong financial standing and commitment to serving its members. Checks will be mailed directly, so members should ensure their contact information is up to date to avoid delays. Keep an eye on your mailbox and enjoy the benefits of being part of a member-owned cooperative!

Scobey • Flaxville • Peerless • Richland • Opheim • Four Buttes • Antelope
 487-2741 474-2231 893-4398 724-3353 762-3231 783-5519 286-5262



Grower Meetings a Success

The Grower Meetings were a success this year, with strong attendance and valuable discussions at both locations. Held on February 25 at the Scobey Warehouse in the morning and the Sheridan County Civic Center in Plentywood that afternoon, the meetings provided an excellent opportunity for growers to connect, learn and

share insights. A big thank you to everyone that attended—we appreciate your time and engagement. We were fortunate to have outstanding speakers who shared valuable information to support our local producers. Your participation made these meetings a success, and we look forward to seeing you at future events.

You Are Invited

Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday
March 29
8:00 – 11:00 am
at the Flaxville Barn**

**Cooked, Served and
Provided By:**



Sawfly – We Thought We Had This Whipped!



Wheat stem sawfly is a major pest of wheat and other grain crops. Adults emerge in early summer, laying eggs in stems where larvae feed and later move to the base, plugging the stem with sawdust. Overwintering larvae are protected by soil and snow, reducing kernel weight and causing lodging. Damage is often worse along field edges near perennial grasses or cereal crop rotations.

Sawfly is highly adaptable. While crop rotation has helped in northeast Montana, 2025 was a tough year. Efforts to control grasshoppers have inadvertently reduced sawfly's primary natural enemy, worsening infestations. Improved solid-stem wheat varieties offer a valuable tool for growers.

Insecticides are ineffective, as larvae develop inside stems. Adults emerge over several weeks, making spraying impractical. Tillage can reduce larval survival but is rarely feasible. Later seeding lowers yields and doesn't consistently reduce damage. Swathing may help if done early but requires specialized

equipment. Adjusting combine settings or using stripper headers can improve harvest efficiency in slightly lodged crops.

Crop rotation has reduced sawfly damage, as oats, corn, and broadleaf crops are not hosts, and barley is less affected. Parasitoid wasps naturally control sawfly larvae, reducing populations by 40–60%. However, widespread insecticide use for grasshoppers since 2020 has harmed these beneficial insects. As grasshopper spraying decreases, parasitoid populations should recover, aided by more targeted pest management strategies.

Solid-stem wheat varieties remain the most reliable option, limiting larvae survival and reducing lodging. While historically yielding less than traditional varieties, they are an increasingly viable choice for sawfly management. More recently, varieties have been released from NDSU, MSU and Canadian breeding programs in all wheat classes that have solid stems and yield similar to hollow stem varieties. For more information on variety performance, here are variety trial results from:

[NDSU](#)

[MSU](#)

[Saskatchewan](#)



Think Spring! Garden Seeds In

Spring is just around the corner, and it's time to start thinking about planting. Our Scobey retail location is now stocked with garden seeds and soil, so you can get a head start on your garden plans. Whether you're planting vegetables, flowers or herbs, we have everything you need to get growing. Stop by and get ready for a great growing season!



Inoculant Do's and Don'ts

Do

- Keep cool, but not freezing (35–60° F)
- Store in a dry area on a pallet with good air circulation

Don't

- Store in direct sunlight and drying winds
- Expose to moisture or large fluctuations in temperature (during transportation & storage)
- Double stack or place other products on top of inoculant (causes the top layer to compact and form lumps)



Inoculant Quality Check

- Check if there is condensation inside the bag
- Determine how deep the moisture extends into the bag
- Test if the material crumbles easily in your hand
- Inoculants contain live biologicals that require a specific moisture level to remain viable
- When moisture is at the ideal level, solid core granular inoculants should clump together when squeezed but break apart easily when disturbed

Seed Quality a Concern Following a Dry Year

I think everyone can agree, 2024 growing conditions were frustrating! After a good start, the dry weather and heat ruined a promising crop. The cereal crop was generally seeded last and as might be expected in those conditions, the test weight was low to very low for many fields.

The difficult harvest conditions are generating several questions for the 2025 planting season. While your agronomists don't have much experience with managing 55 lbs seed for no-till seeding, we can offer some suggestions for getting in front of seed quality.

Research has shown that healthy small seed can have the same germination rates as normal-sized seed. That said, seed testing for germination, vigor and seed size is more important than usual in small seed. A small investment in seed testing could save you a few dollars an acre in seed and seedtreat costs or even prevent a wreck from poor quality seed.

When getting seed tested, request a vigor or cold stress test in addition to a regular germination test. This test is conducted in cold temperatures and/or compacted soils that more closely mimic field conditions. Also ensure that your seed test includes a seeds per pound or thousand kernel weight, which you can use to calibrate your seeding rates to account for how many more individual seeds are in a bushel of this small grain. Your agronomist can help you calculate appropriate seeding rates given the percent germination, percent viable seedlings and the seed weight.

Don't wait! Initial seed tests can be done before cleaning, just note on the sample that it hasn't been cleaned yet.

Below are a few labs that offer germination, cold stress and disease screening. The Canadian labs seem to have a good handle on these challenges and are able to accept seed mailed or dropped off from US customers. I would recommend you call them and/or visit their websites to ensure their submission requirements are met. Expect testing to take one to two weeks after the lab receives your sample. This is not a comprehensive list.

Lendon Seeds
Regina, SK
<http://www.lendonseeds.com/>
Phone: (306) 585-7333

Discovery Seed Lab
Saskatoon, SK
<https://www.seedtesting.com/>
Phone: (306) 249-4484

Montana State Seed Lab
Bozeman, MT
<http://plantsciences.montana.edu/seedlab/index.html>
Phone: (406) 994-7738



Spring is around the corner and we're geared up for your fertilizer needs. Our trucks are ready to keep your fields thriving this season. Contact us today to get stocked up.

Inoculant Best Practices

- Be sure the screen on top of tanks is in place before filling
- Avoid filling the tank more than halfway to prevent compaction and bridging while in motion
 - Adding smaller amounts each time helps ensure the tank is emptied by the end of the day
- Operate the auger at no more than 50% capacity
 - Excessive speed may break granules, release moisture and lead to buildup inside the tank

Inoculant Updates

When is inoculant not just plain ol' inoculant? When it is easier to use, has better bacteria or is a better value for you! Your PRO Co-op agronomy staff have experience with two granular options, a new liquid inoculant that can be mixed with your seed treat and the proven Nodulator peat inoculant with which you are familiar.

LalFix Start Spherical Granular by Lallemand has two advantages over the old standard granular inoculant. The unique spherical granule has a consistent shape and density with less dust than old granular inoculants. It will flow in equipment the best and has excellent bacterial survival compared to the granular products of the past. LalFix Start also contains rhizobia bacteria for peas and lentils as well as the unique chickpea rhizobia. Along with rhizobia, it also contains a unique bacteria that solubilizes organic phosphorus to improve phosphorus availability in the root zone. In high-pH soils, this will give your crop the best phosphorous availability along with top-end nitrogen fixation.

Nodulator Duo is a pea and lentil-only granular inoculant created in a multi-layer process that results in consistent-sized prills that are reliably low-dust. Along with the highly efficient rhizobia we expect from BASF, it also contains a biofilm-forming bacteria to help keep roots moist in all soil conditions, improving water and nutrient uptake. Nodulator Duo comes in 800 lbs totes as well as bags so you can load the drill once and seed all day.

Osmium by Brett Young is a seed treat-safe liquid with which we have been experimenting. The rhizobia are encapsulated in the liquid solution and can be mixed with certain fungicides and insecticide seed treats at application. The on-seed survival is several days when mixed with seed treat, better than any other liquid inoculant. Osmium simplifies your seed treat – inoculant – seeding process with formulations for peas & lentils as well as chickpeas.

Click for more information:

[Nodulator Sterile Peat](#)

[LalFix Start Spherical Granular by Lallemand](#)

[Nodulator Duo](#)

[Osmium](#)

Spring Oil, Filter & Tire Sale

Large Truck Tires



Passenger & Light Truck Tires



Tractor Tires



Implement Tires



11% off

when paid by the 15th of the following month

Our oils meet or exceed your equipment's required specifications... keeping your warranties valid.

Sale ends April 30. Call or stop by one of our locations today!



Seed Treatment Selections – Plan Now!

It's looking like a normal spring in no-till: planting conditions will be cold and maybe even wet in many places. On top of the usual spring conditions, MSU and NDSU are recommending we plant pulse crops as early as possible to minimize the impact of the root rot diseases. Seed treat provides an economic benefit every year, but it is especially helpful in early seeded crops going into cold and wet soils.

Choosing the right seed treat means considering the soil-borne diseases, the risk of insects that want to eat your emerging crop, seedling vigor and generally the soil environment where the seed is being placed.

Choosing a seed treat means balancing the factors affecting your fields and your seed. You can't fix a stand once it's in the ground, so planning ahead to ensure that seed gets a strong start to withstand what nature dishes out starts with the right seed treat for your operation.

There are good treats available for both pulse crops and cereals. Here are a few of the newest products that might fit your operation:

- **Terraxa F4** is the first wireworm product in 15 years, and actually KILLS them instead of pushing the problem off again for next year. It comes pre-mixed for cereals with three fungicides for an excellent ready-to-apply product.
- **Lumiva** is an insecticide that will kill grasshoppers, wireworm and cutworm. Lumivia can be used on cereal and pulse crops in combination with any fungicide seed treat.
- **PreCede** is a combination of two biostimulants and micronutrients that will maximize root establishment and help your crop overcome poor soil conditions. Look at Precede alone or a combination of a fungicide plus Precede.
- Want one seed treatment for your pulses and cereals? Have us create a custom blend of **Evergol Energy** + **PreCede**. This can be done in 120's for ease of pumping into your treater. It's a unique combination of root rot protection plus the nutritional and biostimulant benefits.
- We can also blend **Evergol Energy** with **Lumivia** for cutworm and grasshopper protection in pulse or cereal crops. PreCede can be added to this blend as well.

Four Major Factors

- **Disease.** Root rots caused by Fusarium, Pythium, Ascochyta, Rhizoctonia, etc., weaken your crop and thin stands. Aphanomyces is a risk in peas and especially lentils, but it can't be controlled by the current seed treats available. All we can do to manage it is plant early and use seed treats to grow the most vigorous seedling possible. Dry soil doesn't mean there's no chance of root disease, it just means some pathogens are more active while others are more aggressive in wet soils.
- **Insects.** Wireworms, Cutworms, Pea Leaf Weevil, Grasshoppers, Flea Beetles. Wireworm cause thin or uneven wheat stands. Teraxxa F4 will kill wireworms and improve stands. Lumivia is a tool for managing cutworms proactively and will help with very early grasshoppers and wireworms as well.
- **Vigor.** Does the seed have the proper nutrition within to STRONGLY germinate and aggressively form an extensive root system? Will it be too weak to get established quickly and begin to extract adequate nutrition and moisture from the soil? Following the dry growing conditions in 2024, seed vigor will be a concern for some growers. Biostimulants are an evolving tool in ag and encompass things like enzymes, seaweed extracts, bacteria, and other biologicals that trigger certain responses in seeds and seedlings that normally would be delayed or not happen under certain conditions. Using them in the right combination with nutrients ON THE SEED can make a huge difference.
- **Environment.** (Too cold, too dry, too wet.) Most no-till fields aren't seeded in perfect conditions. Biostimulants can help the plants power through adverse conditions and seed treat fungicides and insecticides hold off diseases and insect long enough to get your crops growing vigorously.



- **Obvius** or **CruiserMaxx Vibrance Pulse** are good all-around options for pulse crops, depending on your seed quality and wireworm pressure.
- **Raxil Pro Shield** and **CruiserMaxx Vibrance Cereals** bring a good balance of fungal and insect protection at an attractive cost for cereals crops



It is crucial to let us know you are interested in any of these custom blends so we can order yours now - we need a little lead time!

There are a lot of options, but it doesn't have to be complicated. Talk to your agronomist about your situation and budget. I'm certain we have something that will work for you. There has never been a spring where seed treatments weren't worth the investment.

