

# PRO CO-OP AG CENTER



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## From Spring Fields to Fall Herbicide Plans

As you're driving through fields this summer, take note of how well your spring weed control held up. Identifying problem spots now can help prioritize which areas will need to be sprayed immediately after harvest and which fields should be targeted for a fall herbicide application. Planning ahead ensures timely and effective weed management going into next season.

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## Now's the Time for Hay Soil Tests

Right after the first hay cutting is the best time for hay producers to pull soil samples and get a clear picture of nutrient levels in the fields. Taking samples this summer allows for informed fertilizer decisions. Timely fertility applications will improve winter survival and spring greenup of alfalfa and grass

hay stands. If you prefer to wait until spring to fertilize hay, it needs done as soon as the ground thaws. The potential yield of cool season hay crops is determined as soon as they green up the next spring. A little planning now can lead to better yields and healthier stands down the road!



## Lentil & Chickpea Fungicide

Inconsistent and uneven rainfall makes pulse fungicides a challenging topic for this year. Some of you read this headline and are watching your crop burn up in drought. But others have received thunderstorm moisture and possibly hail the past week, with more moisture forecasted. Fungicides play a vital role in producing high-yielding, quality pulse crops in Montana. Choosing the right product for your crop will depend on the diseases you anticipate and the weather and forecasted rainfall. Be sure to take into account the variety of fungicide active ingredients, the potential for disease susceptibility—and, of course, your budget.

In Montana, North Dakota and Saskatchewan, cases of fungicide resistance have been confirmed in *Ascochyta* blight in chickpeas. The issue was first flagged in 2003, when a broad survey found one Saskatchewan isolate showing cross-resistance to the strobilurin fungicides azoxystrobin and pyraclostrobin (both in Group 11) and has been common here since 2016.

A similar trend is being observed in Saskatchewan, where *Alternaria* in lentils is also showing reduced sensitivity to azoxystrobin and pyraclostrobin fungicides.

As you consider applying fungicides to your crops, consult with your Pro Co-op agronomist on what products fit your farm the best considering your crops, field history, disease spectrum, weather and budget.



The perfect stage for fungicide on lentils.



[How Biostimulants + Nutrition Work in Tandem](#)



[Preventing Herbicide Injury](#)



[How Plant Nutrition Complements a Herbicide Application](#)

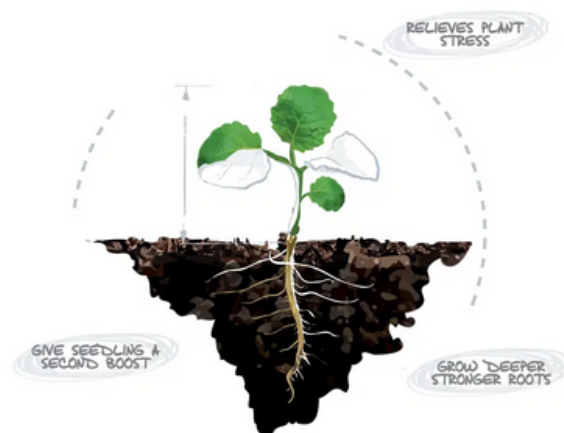
## Addition of ReLeaf

When crops are already under stress, introducing new stressors like nutrient deficiencies or herbicide applications can do more harm than good; slowing recovery and limiting yield potential.

The upside? There's still time to turn things around — but your crop needs the right support to bounce back.

A combination of balanced nutrition and biostimulants can help boost photosynthesis, encourage strong root development, and ease the effects of environmental stress and herbicide pressure. This gives your crop a better shot at regaining some of the yield potential lost earlier in the season.

Help your crop recover and thrive by including ReLeaf in your next pass. It's a simple step that can make a big difference.



## Did your Inoculant Work?



## Start Planning for Desiccation and Post-Harvest Weed Control

Now is a good time to start thinking about which fields you plan to desiccate with paraquat. Remember, paraquat/Gramoxone is labeled for pea, lentil and chickpea desiccation only. It can also be applied post-harvest to manage resistant kochia. Talk to your agronomist early so we can help you plan ahead and make sure the right products and timing are lined up for your operation.





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### Prevention Beats Repair

Weeds caught early are far easier—and cheaper—to manage. Small, scattered patches can often be controlled with a simple herbicide. If left unnoticed, those same patches can quickly turn into widespread infestations that later require more aggressive and expensive control methods.

### Data-Driven Planning

Scouting provides valuable insight into weed pressure, patterns, and field-specific challenges. Over time, this knowledge helps inform smarter decisions about crop rotations, herbicide modes of action, planting dates, and tillage practices. It's not just about reacting—it's about building a proactive, cost-effective weed management plan.

### Protect Future Yields

Weeds compete with crops for water, nutrients, and sunlight. Even modest infestations can chip away at yield potential. Worse yet, letting weed patches go unchecked can lead to long-term problems as seeds spread across the field. By catching issues early, you can protect this year's crop—and set the stage for better yields in seasons to come.

In short, scouting may require some time and attention, but it's one of the most budget-friendly ways to safeguard your fields. When every dollar counts, making informed, timely decisions based on what you see in the field can make all the difference.

## Excellent Kochia Control Versus Spotty, Uneven Control



## Value of Scouting when Budgets are Tight

### *The Value of Scouting for Weeds—Even on a Tight Budget*

When input costs are high and margins are tight, it's tempting to cut back on everything. But when it comes to weed management, scouting isn't an extra—it's a smart investment. Taking the time to walk your fields and understand what's growing where can pay off in both immediate savings and long-term crop health.

Here's why scouting is one of the most cost-effective tools available, especially during tight budget years:

### *Precision Saves Money*

Blanket spraying entire fields may feel like a one-and-done solution, but it often results in wasted product and unnecessary expense. Scouting allows you to pinpoint problem areas and apply herbicides only where they are needed. This targeted approach stretches your chemical budget further. It may not be perfect, but might fit some of your fields.



# 44th Swank Tour

## July 16, 2025



## Location

The Swank Farm is located north of Poplar at 5106 Road 2041. From Hwy 2 (mile marker 617), go north on Hwy 251 (RY) for 20.5 miles, then 3 miles west on Road 2041. OR, from Froid, go 20 miles west on Hwy 344, 3 miles north on Road 1041, then 10 miles west on 2041.

## 5:00 PM

### Variety Plot Tours

- Dr. Chengci Chen, Eastern Ag Research Center
- Doug Holen MSU Foundation Seed Program Director

### Steak Supper and Family Fun

- Swank Family: Drip Irrigation Renovation
- Alfalfa Variety Trial for Dryland-MSU Extension
  - Agriscience Project-Felix Becker
- Yard Games and Snow Cones!

## Sponsors

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- MSU Extension-Fort Peck
- C & B Operations LLC, Culbertson



### Questions?

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