



SAVE THE DATES ONLINE PEST CONTROL OFFICER AND WEED INSPECTOR TRAINING

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions on group meetings, the Pest Control Officer Workshops and Weed Inspector Clinics will be presented in a webinar format in Winter 2021. The Plant Health Officers, Rat Control Technical Advisors, and Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture are working together to provide these webinars starting in January 2021. Continuing education credits will be available if possible.

PEST CONTROL OFFICER WORKSHOP WEBINARS:

January 18, 2021—*Labels*

January 25, 2021—*Environment*

February 1, 2021—*Human Health*

Times to be determined.

WEED INSPECTOR CLINICS WEBINARS:

One webinar per month in January, February, and March.

January 19, 2021—*Weed Inspector 101*

Times and future webinar dates to be determined.



PEST MONITORING PROGRAM — WE NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN!

In 2020, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture moved to a permission-based survey system to access fields for their crop surveys. These surveys collect data on crop pests, which includes insects, weeds, and diseases. With this data the Ministry produces pest forecasts, detects emerging problems, and monitors pest levels/damage. The program is once again looking for volunteer producers for the 2021 survey season to allow surveyors onto their fields. Please consider signing up yourself and share the link below with producers you may know to allow for this valuable survey work to continue.

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/programs-and-services/crops-programs/pest-monitoring>

SARM CONVENTION GOES DIGITAL

From March 8 to 12 2021, SARM will be hosting its first digital convention. While unfortunately this means that the PHOs will not be able to meet with you at convention, we are always just an email or a phone call away. PHOs are also available to attend council meetings via conference call or video conference.

WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN APPOINTING OFFICIALS

Appointments for Weed Inspectors, Pest Control Officers, and Pest Control Officers for Clubroot expire annually on December 31. When re-appointing these positions, here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Contact the person you are appointing to notify them of the appointment and ensure that they are still able and willing to take on the role.
2. When appointing Plant Health Officers to provide assistance with clubroot management and the provincial survey in your RM, be sure to make this appointment as “Pest Control Officer for Clubroot”. As clubroot is regulated under the Pest Control Act, only the Pest Control Officer has the legal authority to collect samples and provide support to the RM for any actions required under The Act. Plant Health Officer is simply our job title and it does not provide us with any authority.
3. Send a copy of the appointment letter to:
Executive Director, Crops and Irrigation Branch
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Room 125, 3085 Albert Street, Regina, SK S4S 0B1
Fax: 306-787-0428 Email: crops@gov.sk.ca

The Ministry of Agriculture will send you a letter in return to acknowledge the appointments have been received. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Plant Health Officer.

DON'T FORGET! IMPORTANT DEADLINES COMING UP

Rat Control Program Claims—DECEMBER 31, 2020

Beaver Control Program Claims—FEBRUARY 15, 2021

For help with Rat and Beaver Control Program claims contact Annette Ellert (aellert@sarm.ca) or your PHO



Happy Holidays!

We hope you have a safe
and joyful holiday season

Please contact your Division PHO for more information, to answer any questions, or suggest content for future newsletters.

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