

INTRODUCING PRAIRIEPEST.CA

New streamlined site tracks insect pests

The new Prairiepest.ca site is live, loaded and ready for the 2021 season.

Over the past year, the Prairie Pest Monitoring Network (PPMN) transitioned its popular blog to a new, full website to continue to share timely information for scouting and managing insect pests.

For 24 years, PPMN has delivered a coordinated, science-based service to monitor insect pests across the Canadian Prairies. PPMN provides valuable information predicting insect pest risk and how to assess insect populations. This helps growers and agrologists time in-field scouting activities to make informed decisions about pest management.

The new website provides timely, regional updates, and offers a new way to communicate and engage the agri-industry. “We strive to include information applicable to the Canadian Prairies and the website design helps users navigate to find relevant information,” says Jennifer Otani, Pest Management Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

“We’re really happy blog subscribers are moving to the new PrairiePest.ca,” says Otani. “One of the main reasons for the new format was to improve the network’s capacity and ongoing requirements for technology transfer to support Canadian growers across the Prairies.”

PPMN SUPPORTERS:

Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development, Saskatchewan Agriculture, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, Manitoba Canola Growers Association, Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, Alberta Wheat Commission, Manitoba Crop Alliance, Prairie Oat Growers Association, Western Grains Research Foundation, Government of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Canadian Agricultural Partnership) and Integrated Crop Agronomy Cluster

Behind the scenes, the task of moving information stored on the blog over to the new website was a big one. “An immense amount of data needed to move from the blog to build the new website,” says Otani. “We’re thrilled WGRF supported the process – it made the transition possible in a manageable time period so there was little interruption.”

Easy-to-find features

Many PrairiePest.ca features will be familiar to blog followers. Key sections still include: annual insect risk maps; weekly updates; insect of the week; and insect monitoring protocols for key economic pests. Users can also access insect scouting charts, scouting tips and links to two integral field guides.

“We try to make reliable, science-based information available on the website,” says Otani. “It’s important to provide practical, applicable information to help growers deal with what’s in their field, how to scout for key pests and how to implement integrated pest management strategies.”

During the growing season, the website is updated weekly to predict pests that growers may be seeing in their field and alert them to when and how to be scouting.

“We’re communicating emerging insect pest risk and equipping agrologists with resources for in-field scouting. Ultimately, the resources give researchers a sense of what’s going on across the Prairies.”

Everyone involved in field crop production will want to bookmark the new PrairiePest.ca and put PPMN’s valuable resources to use in support of sustainable insect pest management.

