

Western Committee on Crop Pests – 64th Annual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 5 morning session (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

James (Jim Tansey), Chairperson. Carter Peru, Secretary. Robyne Davidson, Treasurer

1.0 Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 8 am by chair, James Tansey (SK). Roundtable of introductions for all attendees. 76 attendees.

2.0 Agenda Accepted. Tyler Wist moved, Brett Rumpel 2nd. Carried.

- Correction - Remove treasurer from Carter Peru on agenda

3.0 Minutes from Kelowna 2023:

- Carter P (SK) reviewed minutes
- John G (MB), highlighted a few grammatical errors. John will provide corrections to secretary.

Motion to accept 2023 minutes as updated - Jim T (SK) moved, James B (SK) 2nd. Carried

4.0 Business arising from the 2023 Minutes: No outstanding resolutions

5.0 Resolutions committee appointed: John Gavloski and Tyler Wist accepted the role.

6.0 Provincial Insect Pest Summaries. To view the full provincial summaries. Please view **Appendix A**.

6.1 British Columbia – Tracey Huepplesheuser. Cold winter damaged carious fruit crops. Grasshopper damage in some crops, but not an issue in Interior B.C. New pests reported: *Plagiognathus delicatus* and *Otiorynchus (Podoropelmus) albidus* and Bluegrass Billbug (*Sphenophorus parvulus*).

6.2 Alberta – Shelley Barkley Late snowfall events, good moisture in spring. Cool weather in June. High temperatures in July. Good conditions in Fall. High grasshopper populations in some areas, but the cool early survey temperatures helped reduce pressure. Provided insect updates on field crops, horticulture crops and pastures. Hessian fly damage was prevalent. Reduced notching was observed during pea leaf weevil survey compared to last year.

6.3 Saskatchewan – Jim Tansey. Spring conditions were cool and wet. Dry and very warm conditions characterized much of the province throughout the late season. Provided an insect updates on field crops, forages, horticultural crops, and an update on vertebrate pests. Delay in grasshopper development due to cool early season conditions. Grasshopper pressure was much less than expected, although some hotspots large populations of Hessian fly in some areas. Pea leaf weevil survey demonstrated large decreases in pea leaf weevil population. Pea aphids

were an issue, with poor performance of lambda-cyhalothrin reported which prompted resistance testing.

6.4 Manitoba - John Gavloski. Grasshoppers were still a concern with some spraying but much less so compared to recent previous years. Very wet and cool in May and June and heavy rains at hatch timing which may have reduced grasshopper Aphids were an issue in cereals with limited insecticide options available – need additional modes of actions. Grape berry moth (*Paralobesia viteana*) was detected for the first time.

6.5 Appoint Summarizers for each Province:

- BC - Tracey or Sussans
- MB – John Gavloski
- SK – James Tansey
- AB – Shelley Barkley

7.0 Insecticide Susceptibility and Resistance on the Prairies - Boyd Mori

- Reduced number of modes of action for foliar products. Limited for seed treatment, but more compared to foliar options.
- Discussed species being evaluated for resistance including alfalfa weevil, soybean aphid, diamondback moth, flea beetle, pea leaf weevil, cabbage seedpod weevil.
- Work being done to determine resistance mechanism in alfalfa weevil.
- Pyrethroid resistance alfalfa weevil widespread in Alberta. Likely present in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- Insect species that migrate from the U.S. can introduce resistance issues in the prairies.
- Tested cabbage seedpod weevil and pea leaf weevil populations did not have resistance to tested products.
- Variability among efficacy of neonic insecticides between crucifer and striped flea beetle previously reported was investigated further. Neonic seed treatments appear to have a feeding deterrence effect on flea beetles.
 - Potential efficacy issues with neonic seed treatments and striped flea beetle control.
- Deltamethrin still provided good control of flea beetles at test locations.
- Suspected insecticide resistance in diamondback moth; results are not yet available.
- Discussed that there is generally a cost to the insect species to have resistance. Report of an insect population in California losing resistance after a period of not applying pyrethroid insecticides.

7.1 Discussion of pea aphid and other ongoing insecticide efficacy issues

- Issues with accessing alternative products to group 2 products.
- Carbine, one of the alternatives, sold out quickly
- Question: Are pea aphids overwintering?
 - Tyler W noted that they probably are in alfalfa. Have been observed when there is still snow on the ground.

- John G - Previously been thought to be blown in. Would be a good research project idea to determine if they are blowing in or overwintering. Have been observed early in MB and AB.
- Question: Availability of resistance test kits?
 - James noted that they can be made available to MB.

8.0 Agency Reports

8.1 AAFC Pest Management Centre – Caitlin Watt

- Pesticide Risk Reduction Program (PRRP) activities.
- Upcoming minor use workshop MU and results from the 2024 workshop.
- Drone Project - Goal to address regulatory needs. Tested on several crops.
- Crop Profiles - Available for 36 crops. To view all crop profiles view here: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/science/agriculture-and-agri-food-research-centres/pest-management-centre/pesticide-risk-reduction-pest-management-centre/crop-profiles>
- IPM projects - new platform to request priority proposals to reach a wider audience. Some examples of ongoing IPM projects include root aphid on quinoa and cabbage root maggot in brassicas. IPM projects can be viewed here: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/science/agriculture-and-agri-food-research-centres/pest-management-centre/pesticide-risk-reduction-pest-management-centre/integrated-pest-management-projects>
- Question on the number of minor use projects available during the upcoming priority setting workshop - has not yet been confirmed
- Question: Drone project -Were aerial or ground applications compared, and efficacy component included? Yes

8.2 CFIA Update – Dave Holden

- Survey calendar and monitoring activities for Asian longhorn beetle, spongy moth, apple maggot, oriental fruit moth (2 years of no detections), Japanese Beetle (well established in the East/East Coast), Spotted Lanternfly, Box Tree moth.
- Surveillance Community of Practice – Jim T and John G are members.
- Promoted the use of INaturalist to report invasives. Please tag CFIA in report.

9.0 Product Updates

- Meagen Reed (UPL) – new product called Shenzi, containing the active ingredient chlorantraniliprole.

The meeting resumed on Wednesday, November 6 at 1:00 pm

10.0 Special Presentation, Dr. Jeff Bradshaw, University of Nebraska - Hessian Fly. Followed by discussion of Hessian fly issues in Western Canada.

- History: One of the oldest invasive species in North America, first found in New York in 1779.
- Hosts: wheat is most optimal, but other hosts as well
- Reviewed the biology of the insect

- Puparia is shaped like flax seed and are often referred as flax seed
- Damage looks more like bending of stem compared to sawfly which looks more like surgical cuts
- Pheromone traps are effective in capturing adult males, but poor predictors of crop risk. No trapping method to monitor female flies. Lack of effective monitoring tools, preventative pest management practices is most important.
- Discussed cultural, chemical and biological control means.
- Management: Resistant cultivars, destruction of volunteers, seed treatments, fly-free dates.
- Effective IPM strategy includes using resistant cultivar along with fly free planting dates.
- Research focus has been to develop resistance cultivars.
- Question: Is there an economic threshold?
 - In Spring, threshold is very low. Thresholds have not been the focus, fly-free planting dates have been the focus or the deployment of resistant cultivars.
- Question: Alternative hosts:
 - Restricted to grasses. Bromegrasses are a predominant host, but volunteer wheat is the most important. Managing green bridge is very important.
 - Bromegrasses in rangeland may also help maintain parasitoid populations rather than a risk for harboring hessian fly.

11.0 Research Reports. See **Appendix B for full research summaries**

11.1 British Columbia – Prepared by Wilm van Herk and presented by Caitlin Watt. Caitlin briefly presented 13 projects in BC led by researchers with AAFC (Agassiz, Summerland), the University of British Columbia, and the University of the Fraser Valley. Projects spanned from research on horticultural pests to drone application of pesticides.

11.2 Alberta – Prepared and presented by Caitlin Watt. Caitlin briefly reviewed 28 projects in Alberta led by researchers with AAFC (Lethbridge, Beaverlodge), Olds College, University of Lethbridge, Alfalfa Seed Commission of Alberta, and the University of Alberta. Research projects covered a variety of topics, including insect monitoring, management, and beneficial insects.

11.3 Saskatchewan – Prepared and presented by Tyler Wist. Tyler briefly reviewed 14 projects in Saskatchewan led by researchers from AAFC (Saskatoon), the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina and others. Projects in SK address a variety of insect pest issues, such as root aphids, flea beetles, lygus bugs and lesser clover leaf weevil.

11.4 Manitoba – Prepared by John Gavloski and Vincent Hervet. John briefly reviewed 16 research projects in Manitoba led by researchers from the University of Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers, and AAFC (Morden, Brandon). Project topic focused on field crops, insects in stored products, pollinator/beneficial insects and medical/veterinary entomology.

11.5 Appoint summarizers

- British Columbia – Wilm van Herk as primary and Caitlin Watt as second

- Alberta – Caitlin Watt as primary
- Saskatchewan – Tyler Wist as primary and Sean Prager as second
- Manitoba – Vincent Hervet as primary and John Gavloski as second

Motion to approve compilers: John Gavloski moved, Keith Gabert 2nd. Carried.

12.0 WCCP Guide Discussion

Table 1: Chapters that are posted on the WCCP website and when they were last updated:

Chapter	Last Updated	Authors
Oilseed Crops	February 2024	J. Gavloski
Cereal Grains	April 2024	J. Gavloski; H. Catton
Forage Crops	May 2024	J. Gavloski; J. Retzlaff
Pulse Crops	April 2024	J. Gavloski; J. Tansey
Tree Fruits	October 2023	S. Acheampong
Turf	Feb. 2022	G. Byrtus
Seasoned Wood and Timber Structures	Feb. 2016	H. Philip
Bee Poisoning	2013	J. Soroka; J. Otani

Table 2: Chapters that have not been updated in the past 5 years and are posted as “Archived Chapters of the WCCP Guidelines”:

Chapter	Last Updated	Authors
Greenhouse Crops	May 05	B. Costello; K. Fry
Shelterbelts, Trees, and Shrubs	Aug 05	A. Fiset
Interior Landscapes and House Plants	May 05	K. Fry
Home Vegetable Crops	March 05	R. Spencer; S. Barkley
Warehouses and Farm Stored Grain	Not posted, link goes to Shelterbelt, Trees, and Shrubs	N. White; P. Fields

Table 3: Additional WCCP Guidelines:

Chapter	Last Updated	Authors
Recommendations for the Control of Arthropod Pests of Livestock, Poultry and Farm Buildings in Western Canada	January 2017	Hugh Philip Jim Tansey is currently updating

- Four chapters updated in 2024. Call for volunteers to update chapters
- Some chapters were not being updated and put into an archive – see Table 2.

- Guideline for Recommendations for the Control of Arthropod Pests of Livestock, Poultry and Farm Buildings in Western Canada is being updated by Jim Tansey.
 - Jim provided an update. Considering having a filtered spreadsheet rather than many pages of text. There were no objections to this idea.
- Guides should be promoted more during in-season updates.
- Request all to have a look at the Guidelines and bring forward any ideas for improvements.
- Goal to update at least 2 chapters per year.

13.0 New Business

- Proposed to post research reports separate from minutes
 - Motion to include a link for the full research reports in the minutes rather than the full reports. John Gavloski moved, Tyler Wist 2nd. Carried

14.0 Election of 2024 WCCP Executive

- John Gavloski WCCP chair
 - Motion Caitlin Watt, Tyler Wist 2nd. Carried.
- Early October meeting may be challenging for writing reports
- Suggestion to keep meeting in November
 - A survey will be sent out on the format of the meeting
- Question: Any objection to having virtual speakers? No
- Questions: Should virtual attendees be allowed? No, should stick to in-person attendees.
- The decision on selecting dates for the 2025 meeting of the meeting until the business meeting on November 7th

Motion to recognize Ross Weiss's contributions. Jim Tansey moved, Keith Gabert 2nd. Carried.

15.0 Resolution from the Committee: Whereas, a successful meeting requires the contributions of many volunteers and financial support from sponsors, and; Whereas, the 2024 the WCCP meeting in Regina, SK was very successful, therefore; Be it resolved that the members of WCCP extend sincere gratitude to the sponsors, local arrangements committee and organizers, speakers and hotel staff for organizing and implementing a great meeting. Furthermore, WCCP acknowledges the organizers of the WFPM for all their work organizing the 2024 meeting.

16.0 Adjourn 4pm, by Chair, Jim Tansey.

Appendix A. Provincial Insect Pest Summaries Link:

- [Annual Insect Reports](#)

Appendix B. Links for Provincial Research Summaries:

- [Manitoba](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Alberta](#)
- [British Columbia](#)