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## Plant Health Network

### Program Guidelines

2018 - 2019

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)

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### **Purpose of the Program:**

The purpose of the Plant Health Network (CAP-PHN) is to establish human resources in each of SARM's 6 Divisions to provide direct support, education, training to rural municipalities (RM), and their municipally appointed officers, as well as First Nations Bands (FNB) on how best to manage the agricultural crop pests and prohibited and noxious weeds that all landowners are required to manage under *The Pest Control Act* and *The Weed Control Act* in Saskatchewan.

The PHN will also work under the guidance of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to monitor, survey and report on agricultural crop pests and prohibited/noxious weed occurrences and cultivate a more consistent approach on how these are managed across the province. This network will take advantage of ongoing pest monitoring and forecasting efforts in the province to establish an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) system for crop pests in the Province. The EDRR approach involves the prioritization of newly emerging pests over established pests for monitoring and early management to prevent establishment and spread. This has been documented to be more effective and efficient use of finite economic and human resources.

### **Background:**

Under Growing Forward 2, SARM administered the Invasive Plant Management Program and the Provincial Rat Eradication Program. Both programs provided funding for SARM to contract human resources to assist RMs with their rat and invasive plant control efforts. These human resources were proven to be a driver for the agriculture grant programs as each year we saw more uptake and instances of rat and invasive plant infestations detected early-on enabling RMs and FNBs the ability to better respond in a timely and effective manner.

With a proven history of human resource capacity complementing grant programs SARM will administer the CAP-PHN under the new federal funding initiative, *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* (CAP) agreement. It will expand the focus of the human resource support to RMs and FNBs by providing regional networks to effectively assist in the response to invasive/emerging threats to plant biosecurity in agriculture in Saskatchewan.

### **Program Administration and Budget:**

SARM is administering the CAP-PHN on behalf of the Province. Funding for the program is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Government under *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* agreement, in the amount of \$715,000 for the first program year (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019) with an increase in funds to \$1,115,000 to add more human resource capacity as needed in year 2 (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020).

### **Eligibility:**

All RMs and FNBs south of the Northern Administration District are eligible to utilize these human resources when dealing with issues regarding invasive plants, rats, nuisance beavers, clubroot and other pests as declared/designated under *The Pest Control Act* or *The Weed Control Act* of Saskatchewan.

### **Program Outline:**

Each SARM Division will employ a full-time Plant Health Officer (PHO) who will develop, promote and implement best practices within their Division to proactively identify, monitor and assist in the control

of invasive/emerging threats to plant biosecurity in agriculture with the goal of developing more comprehensive and uniform control strategies across the Province.

The scope of their work will include clubroot, Norway Rat, problem Beaver and other pests declared respectively under *The Pest Control Act* and as well as prohibited/noxious weeds designated under *The Weed Control Act* of Saskatchewan.

PHOs will focus on educating RMs and FNBs on how best to undertake their powers and responsibilities in accordance with Saskatchewan legislation respecting pest control and weed control, provide education, training and support to appointed Pest Control Officers (PCOs) and Weed Inspectors (WIs) and under the guidance of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SMA) survey and report on agricultural crop pests and prohibited/noxious weeds occurrences.

PHOs will be trained in the field of agrology and have the ability to supervise 0.5 FTE in seasonal assistance to assist with duties as required in their SARM Division.

### **Assistance the PHO may provide to an RM/FNB:**

#### 1. Duties Required under Pest Control and Weed Control Acts

- Assist appointed pest control officer or weed inspector in drafting a plan to deal with an infestation (could include assisting to draft an order and/or a control plan).
- Assist in drafting weed management plans or cooperative weed management area agreements.
- Provide templates for rate payer communication letters, assist with the development of bylaws and provide suggestions for key messages when communicating to the general public about pestcontrol and invasive plant control.
- Available to meet with RM and FNB Councils to outline duties/responsibilities required by legislation.

#### 2. Act as Temporary Appointed Weed Inspector or Appointed Pest Control Officer

- If an RM doesn't have a municipally appointed pest control officer or weed inspector in a specific year, they may appoint the PHO from their Division to act on their behalf, on a case by case basis, as an officer under the respective legislation.
- RMs and FNBs will be responsible for all costs related to the temporary appointment of the PHO when providing this service.***

#### 3. Making Connections in the Division

- Assist the RMs and FNBs in finding licensed pesticide applicators with appropriate designations and beaver trappers for hire in the Division.
- Maintain an open line of communication with other regional contacts or specialists if RMs or FNBs need assistance in other areas:
  - i. Other agrologists
  - ii. Ministry of Agriculture Crop Specialists and Regional Staff

- iii. Conservation Officers
- iv. Saskatchewan Trappers Association Zone Representatives
- v. Licensed pesticide applicators in the Division.

4. Provide Advice and Training to Municipally Appointed Officers in the Division

- Be available via phone and email to provide direction regarding the municipally appointed Pest Control Officer and Weed Inspector's duties under their respective legislation.
- Provide advice and direction on provincial best practices for drafting orders to destroy and control plans, draft machine-washing protocols, etc.
- Facilitate training workshops in the SARM Division for municipally appointed RM PCO and Weed Inspectors regarding their duties under the respective legislation.
- Assist municipally appointed PCO and Weed Inspectors in person, if necessary, to deal with difficult landowners when serving orders to destroy, etc.

5. Guiding Provincial Efforts on Clubroot

- As clubroot isn't currently widespread in Saskatchewan, SARM encourages all RMs/FNBs to utilize the expertise of the PHO for their region when dealing with incidences of clubroot.
- If an RM has a Pest Control Officer the PHO will work with them to assist and advise them on best practices in dealing with clubroot.
- If an RM has not appointed a PCO and is dealing with clubroot, the services of the PHO will be provided at no charge and the PHO will undertake the duties of the appointed officer.

6. Monitor the Pest/Invasive Plants in the Division

- Under the guidance of the SMA Crop Specialists they will coordinate and participate in agricultural crop pest and invasive plant/weed surveys within the Division and report back to SMA.
- They will have a good understanding of the overall state of agricultural crop pests and invasive plants in the Division and can therefore better advise RMs or FNBs on their monitoring and control efforts.

**Human Resources Available:**

If you require assistance please contact the Plant Health Officer located in your SARM Division:

Division 1: Katey Makohoniuk, (306)594-7683, [katey.makohoniuk@gmail.com](mailto:katey.makohoniuk@gmail.com)

Division 2: Joanne Kwasnicki, (306) 541-8437, [joanne.kwasnicki@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.kwasnicki@gmail.com)

Division 3: Betty Johnson, (306) 315-3925, [bettyjohnson0025@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjohnson0025@gmail.com)

Division 4: Lynne Roszell, (306) 852-8328, [lynneroszell@gmail.com](mailto:lynneroszell@gmail.com)

Division 5: Chelsea Baraniecki, (306) 380-4526, [chelsea.baraniecki@gmail.com](mailto:chelsea.baraniecki@gmail.com)

Division 6: Colleen Fennig, (306) 946-9895, [colleen.fennig@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.fennig@gmail.com)

For more information on the CAP-PHN please visit the SARM website at <https://sarm.ca/programs/administered-programs/ag-programs/cap-phn> or contact Annette Ellert, Program Manager, at 306-761-3744 or email at [aellert@sarm.ca](mailto:aellert@sarm.ca).