



PLANT HEALTH NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

Meet Your Plant Health Technical Advisors

Spring has sprung! The SARM PHTAs are excited to begin another season and have decided to reintroduce themselves to the RMs of Saskatchewan. We've completed a series of questions so that you can get to know us better. We look forward to serving you in 2025-2026!



Yemi Adeyemo
PHTA Division 1



Joanne Kwasnicki
PHTA Division 2

What is your background?

I have over 5 years of experience in agronomy, agri-business, and plant health with a strong foundation in crop protection, stakeholder training, and sustainable agriculture. I've worked with Bayer and DuPont in Nigeria.

Where are you based?

I'm based in Weyburn, SK.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy being out in the field, supporting RMs and producers, and learning how to tackle real-world pest and invasive plant challenges through education and science-based solutions.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I enjoy spending time with my family, exploring nature, gardening, and keeping up with trends in digital agriculture.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I enjoy driving.

What's your background?

I grew up in Regina and I have always been fascinated by the natural world. This led to me pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a concentration in Ecology and Environmental Biology from the University of Regina. I worked with ornamental plants as a horticulturist and agriculture test plots as a research assistant before becoming a Plant Health Technical Advisor in 2018.

Where are you based?

I live in Regina with my husband and our butter-loving rescue cat.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I am always learning, and I get to spend a lot of time outside in the summer. I especially like working with, and teaching others about, biocontrol insects and invasive plants.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I like to be active outdoors - hiking, camping, and paddling. Though, I am not very fun to hike with, since I am always stopping to look at plants.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I ran my first ultramarathon in Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park last fall. I managed to avoid the rattlesnakes, but not the poison ivy. I'm not sure how "fun" it was, but it was very beautiful and rewarding.



Sustainable CAP – Pest Biosecurity Program

<https://sarm.ca/programs/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/>



Betty Johnson
PHTA Division 3

What is your background?

I hold Bachelor of Technology in Landscape Environmental Horticulture from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from India. After graduating, I worked as a Weed Inspector in Grande Prairie, Alberta and as a Research Assistant in British Columbia.

Where are you based?

I live in Swift Current, southwest of Saskatchewan with my family.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I am passionate about raising awareness of invasive plants and pest while assisting RMs and appointed officials and spends summers conducting crop surveys.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Enjoys my free time mostly with reading, gardening, walking and gathering with friends.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I possess a small collection of postal stamps and continue to take pleasure in collecting them.



Katey Makohoniuk
PHTA Division 4

What's your background?

I grew up on a farm and have worked in agriculture my entire life. My husband and I own and operate a grain farm near Arran, SK. I have my Certified Crop Advisor designation, and a Diploma in Agricultural Production and Management from Olds College.

Where are you based?

I am the PHTA for Division 4 and live with my husband and two boys in Swan River, MB

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love searching for invasive weeds and figuring out strategies for controlling them using Integrated Pest Management. I also really enjoy working with Weed Inspectors and PCOs

What do you like to do outside of work?

I try to get out hiking and gardening as much as possible, and in the winter, I enjoy sketching and reading.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am a member of the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves, serving as a Canadian Ranger in the Swan River Patrol Group. We provide a military presence in remote areas, assisting with search and rescue when needed.

Please contact your SARM Division Plant Health Technical Advisor for more information, to answer any questions, or to suggest content for future newsletters.

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Chelsea Neuberger
PHTA Division 5

Chelsea is currently away on Maternity leave after giving birth to an adorable baby boy on April 2nd. She graduated university in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with a major in Environmental Sciences and a certificate in Sustainability. Throughout university, she worked with agriculture companies such as Monsanto Canada and Bayer CropScience.

After graduating she worked as a Research Technician with Monsanto Canada and a Barley Agronomist with Cargill- Prairie Malt before coming to work at SARM. Chelsea grew up in the City of Saskatoon and currently resides there. Her hobbies include cooking, gardening, and traveling.



Colleen Fennig
PHTA Division 6

What's your background?

I was raised on a mixed farm in the RM of North Battleford. After graduating from high school, I went to university to study health sciences but eventually my upbringing drew me back to the agriculture. In 2009, I graduated from university again with a degree in environmental science. Prior to starting with SARM, I worked for a watershed stewardship group as their agri-environmental technician and later, their general manager.

Where are you based?

I mainly work in Division 6, but my home base is in the RM of Viscount. I live on a quarter section with my cats, chickens and other local wildlife.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Although it can become overwhelming, I enjoy doing crop surveys in my division. I enjoy collaborating with landowners and hopefully providing them some value.

What do you like to do outside of work?

When not on the road or in a field, I enjoy renovating my old farmhouse, growing and preserving my own food, and trying to keep my life simple. In the winter I debate with myself whether I need more chickens or if I should buy more seeds. The answer is always “no”, but I do it anyway.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

Fun or weird? I tend to talk to myself and sing along to loud music when on the road (and I am on the road a lot) so chances are you can hear me coming before you see me.