

**Position:** MSc student for the Prairie Pest Monitoring Network

**Supervisors:**

Dr. Chris Willenborg, Department of Plant Science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Meghan Vankosky, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon Research and Development Centre

**Projected start date:** April 1, 2019

**Project Description:** The Prairie Pest Monitoring Network is a highly collaborative project involving scientists from multiple institutions and governments in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Peace River Region of British Columbia. The network conducts pest surveys and experiments to understand the biology and life histories of insect pests of canola, wheat, pulses, and other crops. This information is used to map pest distribution and forecast pest outbreaks.

The objective of the MSc project will be to develop or refine pest forecast models by conducting field and laboratory experiments. Insect pests of interest include pea leaf weevil, cabbage seedpod weevil, bertha armyworm, and wheat stem sawfly. Work conducted will result in fuller understanding of the ecology and biology of insect pests and enhance existing predictive models and forecasts of benefit to the agricultural industry. The successful candidate will gain experience designing and conducting entomology experiments, using statistical analyses, using modeling software (CLIMEX and DYMEX), and writing scientific publications.

**Expectations (held by supervisors):**

- Completion of coursework and other requirements of the MSc program at the University of Saskatchewan
- Development of a research proposal and literature review
- Completion of field and laboratory experiments as described in the research proposal
- Composition of a thesis document that meets the requirements of the MSc program at the University of Saskatchewan AND consists of publishable scientific outputs

**Requirements:**

- Completion of a BSc (or equivalent) in entomology, biology, agriculture, or related field
- An academic record sufficient for acceptance into the U of S graduate program at the MSc level
- Reliability status (mandatory security clearance required by Government of Canada)
- Valid Class 5 drivers licence
- Canadian citizenship or permanent residency as per the *Public Service Employment Act*

Interested parties should contact Dr. Meghan Vankosky ([meghan.vankosky@canada.ca](mailto:meghan.vankosky@canada.ca)) for more information about educational requirements and the application process.