

## **M.D. of Bonnyville Media Release July 24, 2013**

### **M.D. of Bonnyville issues Bertha Armyworm warning**

The Municipal District of Bonnyville pest trapping system has picked up one location with high numbers of the Bertha Armyworm moth. The one location near Glendon, has trapped in excess of 900 moths per trap. The Bertha Armyworm pheromone trapping system is designed to give an early warning of Bertha Armyworm infestations. The system is based on trap catches in over 110 locations in Alberta.

Director of Agriculture and Waste Services Matt Janz says this means the trap location has picked up a localized population of Bertha Armyworm moths. The number is high enough that it is very likely that some fields will have damaging levels of Bertha Armyworm larvae later in the summer (late July and August). For the rest of the municipality it is important to realize that there may be other localized populations, so any canola field may be at risk. Those closest to the high catch traps are more at risk.

Janz says it is not possible to tell at this point which fields will be infested. Someone with sharp eyes will be able to find egg masses in the field at this point. These eggs will hatch and the small worms will feed on canola leaves for about four weeks. As the crop starts to lose its leaves the Bertha Armyworms will move to the top of the plant and start feeding on the pods. Farmers should be prepared to scout their fields once petal drop has started to look for evidence of Bertha Armyworms. Larvae take approximately six weeks to complete their development, depending upon temperature. As they mature, their color becomes variable. Some remain green, but many become brown or velvety black. At a mature level, larvae are about 4 cm (1.5 in.) long.

For further information contact the Agricultural Service Board at 780-826-3951.

- 30 -

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Director of Agriculture and Waste Services Matt Janz

780-826-3951