

Agricultural Research Service's Sidney Lab to Host Scientific Conference on Wheat Stem Sawfly

The Fourth International Wheat Stem Sawfly Conference will be held Oct. 13-14 at the Agricultural Research Service's Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory (NPARL) in Sidney, Mont. ARS is the chief scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The 1-1/2-day conference, held only every three to five years, brings together scientists from across the region, the Prairie Provinces of Canada, and from Montpellier, France, to discuss ongoing and future research into the biological, cultural and chemical control of wheat stem sawfly.

The scientific presentations will begin at 8 a.m. on Oct. 13 and are open to the public. Time is also being set aside to allow for producer input and a question-and-answer session with the scientists, in addition to separate sessions for scientists to discuss collaborations between the different universities, agencies and disciplines represented.

Topics for the conference include discussions on the genetics of the wheat stem sawfly and new wheat varieties intended to help combat the pest, as well as biological and cultural management research and survey information. A full schedule will be available Oct. 8 on the NPARL website at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/npa/nparl> .

Among the scheduled presenters are wheat breeders Luther Talbert and Phil Bruckner, entomologists David Weaver and Kevin Delany, and chemical ecologist Micaela Buteler, all with Montana State University–Bozeman; cereal agronomist Brian Beres and entomologist Hector Carcamo of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge, Alberta; Scott Meers with Alberta's Agriculture Food and Rural Development Centre; and entomologist Walker Jones and molecular biologist Marie-Claude Bon, both with the USDA-ARS European Biological Control Laboratory in Montpellier, France.

The wheat stem sawfly is a serious pest in the Northern Great Plains and Canada, causing yield losses of more than \$100 million a year, with annual losses in Montana alone exceeding \$25 million.

ARS operates more than 100 research facilities across the United States, including the Sidney laboratory.

You're invited to the ...

4th International Wheat Stem Sawfly Conference

To be held at the Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory (NPARL) in Sidney, MT on October 13-14, 2008. (Link to map of Sidney, MT at <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Sidney&state=MT> and NPARL at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/npa/nparl/pmru>)

We are pleased to invite you to attend the 4th International Wheat Stem Sawfly Conference to be held October 13-14, 2008 at the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory (NPARL) in Sidney, Montana.

The one-and-a half day event will provide participants the opportunity to present, discuss and assess past and current research efforts in the biological, cultural and chemical control of wheat stem sawfly. Attendees will also have the opportunity to identify new directions and collaborations for future research into this important agricultural pest. Presentations, poster displays and group discussions are all planned along with a tour of the Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory.

Interested speakers are asked to make a 30 minute presentation and incorporate 5 minutes for question and answers. A digital projector and Microsoft 2003 PowerPoint software are available. If you have a later version of PowerPoint you may want to save a second copy of your presentation as an earlier version to avoid any potential compatibility problems. The presentation file(s) should be on a flash drive or CD. Let us know any other preferences you may have. (Please see the contact information listed below.)

A block of rooms has been reserved under the name "USDA-ARS Sawfly" at the Richland Motor Inn in Sidney, MT for the nights of October 12-14, 2008 at the Government rate of \$70.00 plus tax. You need to call the hotel at 406-433-6400 to guarantee your room against your credit card by no later than October 1, 2008. Commercial air service is expected to be reinstated in Sidney on September 4, 2008. The next nearest airport is in Williston, North Dakota, 50 miles northeast of Sidney. Other airport options include Billings, MT (275 miles), Bismarck, ND, (250 miles) or Minot, ND (180 miles). Public transportation is not available between these cities and it is recommended to arrange your own ground transportation. Rental cars are available at each airport.

Additional information and a registration form are attached for your convenience. Please note, the registration deadline is September 24th. Please email your reply with registration information to Deb Waters at deb.waters@ars.usda.gov. If you have any questions, please call 406-433-9491.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Name: (for badge)

City, State:

Country:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Speaker:

Yes:

No:

Title:

Poster Display:

Yes:

No:

*Poster Size:

Title:

Special Equipment Needs (see available equipment stated above):