



Ag. Advantage Monthly

Combining Agricultural Production with Environmental Stewardship

Growing Forward 2

Availability of Growing Forward 2 programs is constantly changing. Sign up for their program announcements or join their emailing list at:

www.growingforward.alberta.ca

OR call 310-FARM (3276)

for program specific information



Your Local Environmental Farm Plan Technician is:

Fallon Sherlock

**Kneehill County Assistant
Agricultural Fieldman**

**Please contact Fallon if you are interested in
completing a EFP**

(403) 443-5541

Kneehill County Grasshopper Update

Scott Meers- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Every year in August Agriculture Fieldmen across Alberta complete a survey of grasshoppers. The numbers collected in that survey form the basis of the grasshopper risk map that is published by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. Based on this survey the risk for grasshopper issues in Kneehill County are very low.

The dry start to the 2015 growing season, however, has been ideal for the hatching success and early development of grasshoppers. The grasshopper hatch started in late May for much of the province and the early instars have been developing quickly in the dry warm conditions. If young hoppers get through their early growth in good shape they have a very high likelihood of surviving through to reproduce in the fall. For producers in the Kneehill area this means there is only no real risk from grasshoppers in 2015 but it could mean an increase in the population this year and lead to problems in future years.

If experiencing higher than expected grasshopper numbers economic thresholds are determined by estimating the number of grasshoppers per square meter. Below 7/m² will not need control, 7 to 12/m² may need control and control is recommended at 13/m² (7 to 12 in canola) or above.



Two Striped Grasshopper

Adult Female

Photo from www.insectsofAlberta.com

If you would like more information on grasshoppers please contact the Kneehill County Agriculture Services Department at (403) 443-5541 or toll free at 1-866-443-5541.