



New General Manager

We are very pleased to be able to introduce our new General Manager Jodi Niznik.

Jodi is truly an exceptional find, she has a professional working attitude and is an excellent communicator. She is doing a great job picking up where Kendra left off and with helping us untangle some of the issues arising from this staff change.

We look forward to introducing her in person at the next meeting.

Alfalfa Seed Commission

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Summer Newsletter



The Canadian Cocoon Test Centre is on the Move

The CCTC has long needed a larger space to operate in, and they are finally getting it. As of this month, the new lab will be located at the Medicine Hat College Brooks campus, in room 197. The added space will hopefully help streamline the testing process, making your results that much faster.

Along with this move, Brad Alexander (Research Manager) will be moving into an attached office. The proximity of these two separate entities will offer a greater possibility for future collaborative research into the health of alfalfa leafcutter bees.



CCTC

Room 197
200 Horticultural Station Rd
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Another Tool for Pteromalus?

This January at the annual Saskatchewan Leafcutters Association meeting in Saskatoon, Wayne Goerzen presented his findings that clove oil is effective at repelling *Pteromalus venustus*, the most common parasite associated with leafcutter bees in Canada.

ASCA has since conducted a small-scale trial to investigate the possibility of using cloves as a repellent in incubation. This trial is yielding very positive results, and in the fall ASCA plans to work with Wayne Goerzen and Dr. Danica Baines on large scale trials.

Rosemary Weevils

This spring was met, as in the past, with a high number of alfalfa weevils in the Rosemary area. Knowing that there is an issue with pesticide resistance in this area, ASCA conducted a mechanical control trial.

When the alfalfa was still small (3"-5"), and the weevils were just reaching egg laying stage, ASCA burned four 10ac plots with liquid propane. These plots were monitored and sampled as the alfalfa grew back.

Although there were many alfalfa weevils observed in each field prior to the trial, none were found in the treated areas for several days after the treatment. Unfortunately, the alfalfa weevils quickly returned as the crop regrew. There may be potential in burning a full field.

ASCA plans to conduct a similar fall burning trial after harvest.

