



## News Release – For Immediate Release Thursday, March 21, 2013

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### County hosting free information session on clubroot and Fusarium March 26<sup>th</sup>

The County Agriculture department will be hosting an information session about clubroot and *Fusarium* for local crop producers at the Sexsmith Civic Center on Tuesday, March 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Plant Pathology Research Specialists Victor Manolii from the University of Alberta; and Dr. Ron Howard from the Crop Diversification Centre will be speaking at the session.

“We encourage local producers to take advantage of this opportunity to attend this important information session,” says Sonja Raven, County Agricultural Fieldman. “Victor Manolii and Dr. Ron Howard will be sharing their expert advice on the risks producers face with the potential spread of clubroot and *Fusarium* to their crops.”

Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease of cruciferous crops. Clubroot can affect the growth of canola, leading to the potential for significant negative economic impacts for producers, as this is one of the main crops grown in our area. Currently, the County does not have clubroot, but the risk of potential contamination is high when equipment from infested areas moves into the area without proper sanitation beforehand.

*Fusarium graminearum* is a fungal disease of cereal crops that causes significant losses in grain yield and quality; and produces mycotoxins which affect livestock feed, the baking and milling quality of wheat and the malting and brewing qualities of malt barley. *Fusarium oxysporum* is also soil-borne, and affects canola by plugging the vascular system of the plant, resulting in wilt and often death of the plant. Losses range from 10 per cent to 100 per cent of the crop. It is mainly found in the Peace River region of Alberta.

The session is free and lunch will be provided. Anyone interested in attending the event must register by contacting Robert Sallis, County Agriculture department at 780-532-9727 or email [rsallis@countypg.ab.ca](mailto:rsallis@countypg.ab.ca) by Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

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