Biography: Meghan Vankosky, Ph.D.

Dr. Meghan Vankosky grew up in rural Alberta, northwest of Edmonton and received her undergraduate (2008) and MSc degrees (2010) from the University of Alberta. In August 2010, she relocated to the University of Windsor (PhD; 2015) where she studied the behaviour of omnivores used for biological control of greenhouse pests. After a second cross-continent relocation, Dr. Vankosky spent one year as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California – Riverside studying classical biological control of the Asian citrus psyllid. She is now a research scientist of field crop entomology with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Saskatoon Research and Development Centre (2016 to present).

Dr. Vankosky is interested in integrated pest management (IPM) programs for insect pests of field crops. Pest monitoring is a cornerstone of successful IPM, thus, she is the chair of the Prairie Pest Monitoring Network (PPMN), a collaborative research group that includes experts from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The PPMN coordinates and conducts annual surveys of key insect pests of cereals, oilseeds, and pulses and provides weekly updates and annual risk and distribution maps to farmers, agronomists, researchers and other agricultural stakeholders. The Network uses bioclimate models to predict insect phenology during the growing season and to model the potential invasion of new pest species in Canada. Recently, Dr. Vankosky joined the Surveillance Working Group of the Canada Plant Health Council and is co-chair of a Community of Practice focusing on harmonizing monitoring protocols for European corn borer across Canada. She is also interested in biological control using beneficial insects and in cultural control methods as alternatives to chemical insecticides. Dr. Vankosky has led projects to test biological and cultural control options for management of the pea leaf weevil, and to investigate the biology, impact, and methods for monitoring *Contarinia brassicola* in addition to her work on the Prairie Pest Monitoring Network.