

County Agent News
“All Around the Farm”

Dan Folske
July 13, 2015

Fusarium Risk High!

Fusarium risk remains high but is dropping as we have had more days with wind and lower humidity. The frequent rains and high humidity mean a high risk of fusarium head blight or “scab” for hard red spring wheat and durum which are flowering according to the disease forecasting model (<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/cropdisease/>) on the NDAWN web site (<http://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/>), however, later fields which are only heading are in a low risk category. To view this disease forecast model, click on <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/cropdisease/>, scroll down and click on the weather station nearest your crop, select the growth stage, and then click the “get forecast” button.

National Meeting

I will be in Sioux Falls, SD. The week of July 13th to the 17th attending a national meeting. I will have email and will be checking in with Charlene at the office here in Bowbells. I will not always be taking phone calls but will get back to you if you leave a message.

Good Bug Corner

This week’s Good Bug Corner featured insect, from Janet Knodel, NDSU Extension Entomologist, is *Megarhyssa atrata*, in the family Ichneumonidae. This giant black parasitic wasp is a beneficial insect that attacks wood borers. It uses its long ovipositor (egg laying apparatus) of 12-15 cm to lay eggs on or near wood boring insect larvae inside tree trunks. Its favorite host is the pigeon horntail, which attacks weakened and damaged trees. Larvae hatch from the eggs and begin feeding on the host larva from which they obtain all of their nutrition. They overwinter as larvae inside the horntail larva burrow and then pupate the following spring. Adult wasps emerge from their burrows and live for up to 27 days. *Megarhyssa atrata* are active from June through September. I get a couple of calls every year about this one because it is so large and the long ovipositor looks like a giant stinger from a Jurassic Park movie!



Megarhyssa atrata female laying egg (white structure is a membranous pouch that holds the long ovipositor.)
(J. Knodel, NDSU)