

### Objective 1: Course Development.

The first objective is the development of teaching materials for biocontrol in the Northern Plains. Course materials will be assembled from past and current research at Western Triangle Ag Research Center and published information from across the Northern Plains region. Study crops, pests and biocontrol agents will be evaluated and their impacts will be documented for later inclusion in the educational materials. All educational materials will be incorporated in to a bound training manual and a web based digital archive for ag professionals.

- Main activities: Photograph biocontrol agents, pest damage, and related material for inclusion in the training manual (October 2015 to September 2016)
- Pest survey and evaluation of biocontrol agents vs. insects pests and weeds (April 2016 to June 2016)
- Development of rearing techniques and data collection (May to September 2016)
- Incorporate the use of biocontrol agents in integrated control program (January to June 2017)
- Print training manual (October 2016 to March 2017)

### Objective 2: Instruction

The second objective is the training of ag professionals in the benefits and methods of use of biocontrol agents for control of major insects and weeds in the Northern Plains. This training is to take the form of classroom learning and hands on field trials using actual biocontrol organisms. The knowledge gained in these workshops will directly translate into training programs for producers via the trained ag professionals.

- Main activities: Classroom instruction (January to March 2017)
- Field instruction (January to March 2017)
- Development of on-site training programs (January to June 2017)

### Objective 3: Evaluation:

The final objective is the evaluation of the effectiveness of this biocontrol training program. The adoption of new and old biological control practices will be readily apparent in farming practices throughout the region. The Western Triangle Ag Research Center will also be able to gauge impact through direct contact with growers and through online availability of biocontrol information on their web page (web based digital archive). The impact of this research will be further evaluated through farm surveys conducted before and after the course. Ag professional participants will be evaluated compared to ag professionals that have not taken the course for course effectiveness.

- Main activities: Field day (July 2017)
- Follow-up farm survey (August 2017)
- Follow-up review of agriculture professionals (September 2017)