



Stinking smut stirs commotion

There has been a lot of commotion in the past week about stinking smut, or common bunt, in this year's wheat crop. Calls started coming in to the office in the middle of last week, mostly concerning one specific variety.

As of then, CSU researchers said they don't believe that the particular variety is any more susceptible to this disease than others, but they are looking in to that possibility. All varieties of wheat are susceptible to bunt.

Bruce Bosley, CSU extension agronomist for Morgan and Logan counties, wrote an excellent article on the subject.

In addition, I would also like to add that some of the questions that have surfaced are what to do with contaminated grain and if it can be fed to livestock.

I was able to find two publications from other areas that had the following to say: The Alberta Department of Agriculture and Rural Development stated "Smutted grain should be stored separately from clean grain. Heavily smutted or bunted grain will not be accepted at the elevator and may even be difficult to sell as feed owing to respiratory or feed refusal problems that might result. Smuts and bunts are not toxic to livestock."

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Extension Corner

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