

## **SUNFLOWER WEEK IN REVIEW July 23, 2007**

### **CROP PROGRESS**

Sunflower is making good progress with the above normal temperatures. Rain would be welcome in all areas. **The combined good to excellent rating dropped 4 points this week to a combined 77%.** Blooming is reported in the Dakotas and Manitoba. The head and banded moth are insects of concern at this time for early planted sunflower. Light levels of red rust have been reported in north central ND.

### **USDA RATINGS**

The following table is a crop rating by USDA as of July 22, 2007

<b>STATE</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>VERY POOR</b>
<b>North Dakota</b>	15%	70%	13%	2%	0%
<b>South Dakota</b>	6%	52%	35%	5%	2%
<b>Minnesota</b>	23%	48%	22%	5%	2%
<b>Kansas</b>	14%	62%	20%	4%	0%
<b>Colorado</b>	16%	75%	8%	1%	0%

### **BANDED MOTH ABUNDANT**

Scouting for eggs of Banded Sunflower Moth (BSM) in sunflower fields, especially in the early planted fields, is a must, according to the NDSU Entomologist Jan Knodel. She has found large numbers of BMS eggs on sunflower heads in east and north central ND (over 100 eggs per head in some cases!) indicating high populations of adult BSM.

### **BLACKBIRD DAMAGE CONTROL CONTACTS**

A number of temporary USDA WS employees will be scattered throughout the northern production region this year to assist farmers in lowering blackbird damage.

### **CONFECTION EXPORTS UP**

Exports of in-shell sunflower for the first 8 months of this marketing year are up 40 percent over last year's level. Major importers include Spain and Turkey. Both countries are showing excellent growth. Other countries showing increased imports include Mexico and all of the Middle Eastern countries. Overall, kernel exports are about equal to last year's level in the same 8 month period. **There is resurgence of 90% in German imports with apparent limits on Chinese kernel availability.** NSA, using funds from USDA's Market Access Program, has been working with importers for over 10 years conducting consumer advertising to create sales of US confection sunflower products.

### **MARKETS**

There continues to be strong demand for remaining old crop. With high values, there are more efforts to separate high and low oil content sunflower into appropriate markets. NuSun oil price is up 64% over last year...while lower oil content seed is best priced into the bird food markets. World markets for sun oil have been increasing sharply with Black Sea production being impacted by dry conditions. According to *Oil World*, July 20, 2007 Argentine and Black Sea sunflower oil crude is quoted at \$930 a ton compared to \$575 at this time last year.