Wireworms cause extensive damage to small grain in Montana. Infestations are commonly misdiagnosed as "winter kill".

**Some Concepts:**
- Infestations may cause skips in rows, or circular damaged areas in fields.
- Losses may be reduced by treating seed with lindane.
- Deeply planted seed is more likely to be damaged, for seed treatment effects remain near the seed.
- Damage may occur in winter wheat in the fall, or early in the season in winter or spring grain.
- Wireworms may move deeper underground when soil temperatures rise or when soil moisture declines in the spring.
- Seed treatment may reduce populations by 70%.
- False wireworm larvae are larger, feed more rapidly, and also cause extensive damage.
- False wireworm adults are large black beetles which are commonly seen moving rapidly on the ground in the summer.
- Seed treatment is the only method for preventing losses from wireworms.