

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel

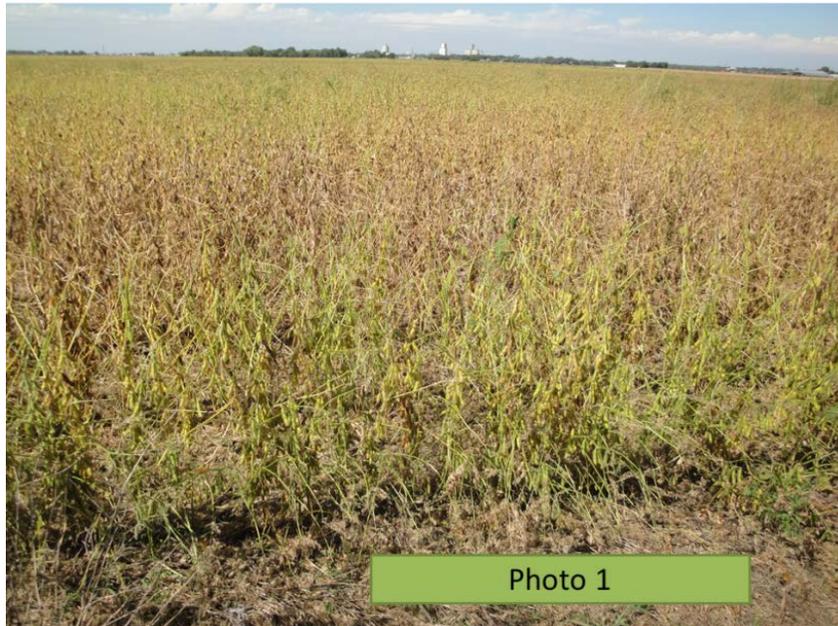


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September 27, 2013 No. 25

Soybean Defoliation by Woollybear Caterpillars

Noted serious soybean defoliation by woolly bear caterpillars (Arctiidae) this week. This infestation apparently started in a conventionally planted bean field, (see photo 1) which had very little succulent green tissue left, just because of the development of the plants, but moved into a double-cropped field that still had some green leaf tissue for them to consume, (see photo 2) also defoliating pigweed on the way which was growing in between the two bean fields. The woolly bears were not causing defoliation field-wide but in spots (see photo 3). The double-cropped beans were in the R6-R7 stage of development, which is about the time they stop needing the leaves anyway, so it is often a difficult decision whether to treat or just let them go as they have, or will soon, discontinue feeding on their own, and migrate to overwintering sites (you have probably noted many woolly bears crawling across roads and highways in the last week or two). We also noted many parasitized and or diseased woolly bears (photo 4). However, any parasites and or predators will be killed by an insecticide application, if that is the decision, so this is another consideration when deciding whether an application is justified or not. Also, we have never conducted a chemical insecticide efficacy trial on woolly bear caterpillars, so we really have no experience to make a recommendation. Make sure you check the label for woolly bears for any product you select if a treatment is called for.



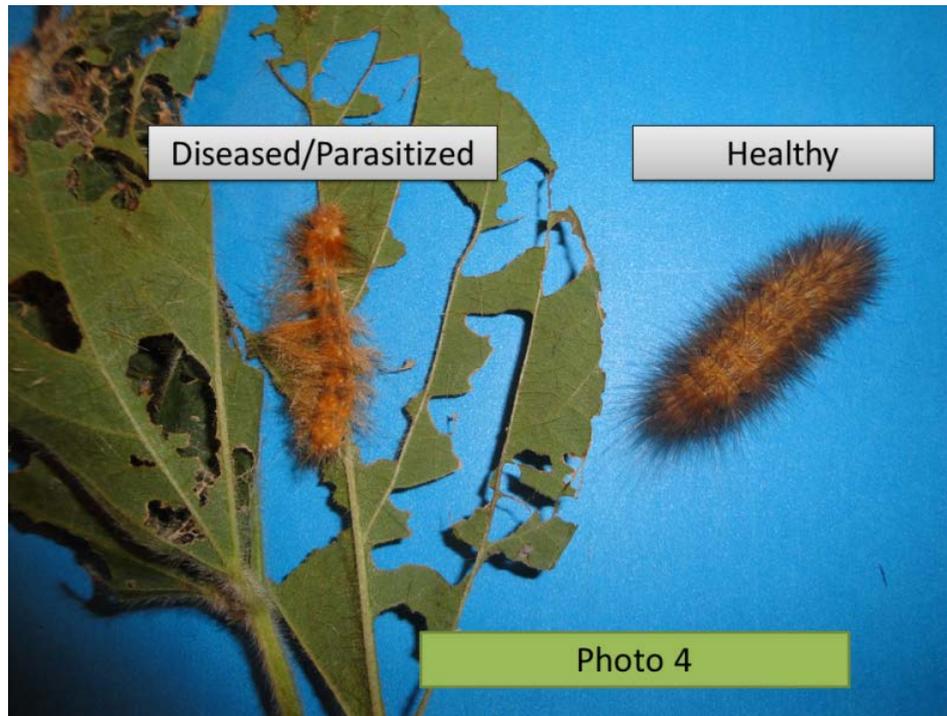
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Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

<http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/recent-samples.html>

Eva Zurek

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Sincerely,

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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