

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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August 15, 2014 No 17

Sunflower Head Moth

Sunflower head moths have been very active for the past few weeks in central Kansas. Significant moth flights were detected by sticky traps baited with pheromone (see photo 1) starting 24 July. Moths have continued to be active up until about the 8th of August, when activity decreased significantly, according to sticky trap counts. Sampling sunflower heads this past week (13 August) indicated the majority (>90%) of the larvae were in the last instar (see photo 2) or had already finished feeding and were crawling down the plant, or descending from the head via silken thread, to pupate in the soil. Considerable feeding damage is also evident (see photo 3) and many heads have sunflower head moth larval feeding damage plus an infection of *Rhizopus* (a fungal pathogen) (see photo 4). Even though moth activity seems to have waned, in central Kansas for the last few days, fields need to be monitored closely, probably starting next week, for any additional moth activity. There will probably be at least one more generation of moths, which means more egg laying, larval hatching, and thus damage. Flowers are in various growth stages with some fields that were double-cropped after wheat still very small.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

Soybean Aphids

First report of soybean aphids for this year was received on 13 August. Scattered light infestations were detected in Brown County.

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Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

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

Eva Zurek

Sincerely,

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