Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel

Department of Entomology
123 West Waters Hall
K-State Research and Extension
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
785-532-5891
http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/extension

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Sorghum Pests

Whorl stage feeding

Much of the sorghum in north central and south central Kansas will soon be, or is already at, the whorl stage. That usually causes much concern if there are larvae feeding in the whorls, resulting in many "ragged" looking plants (see pic). However, please remember that these worms cause highly visible defoliation but that does not translate into later problems with plant growth and development, or yield. The larvae sampled this week in pre-whorl stage sorghum are mostly corn earworms (80%) with a few fall armyworms (20%) and were about half grown, so this feeding will continue for another 5-10 days. This is of interest because the adult corn earworm moths, when they begin ovipositing in approximately 2-3 weeks, will probably do so in soybeans where pod feeding by the larvae can have a direct effect on yield.

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Chinch Bugs

Chinch bug populations are rapidly increasing in north central Kansas. Until now, only adults have been detected, but that has now changed. Very small nymphs (see pic) are starting to hatch and can now be found feeding behind leaf collars at the base of plants. Adults (see pic) are still mating so chinch bug populations should be increasing for at least another month. For more information on chinch bug biology and control, please visit: http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3107.pdf

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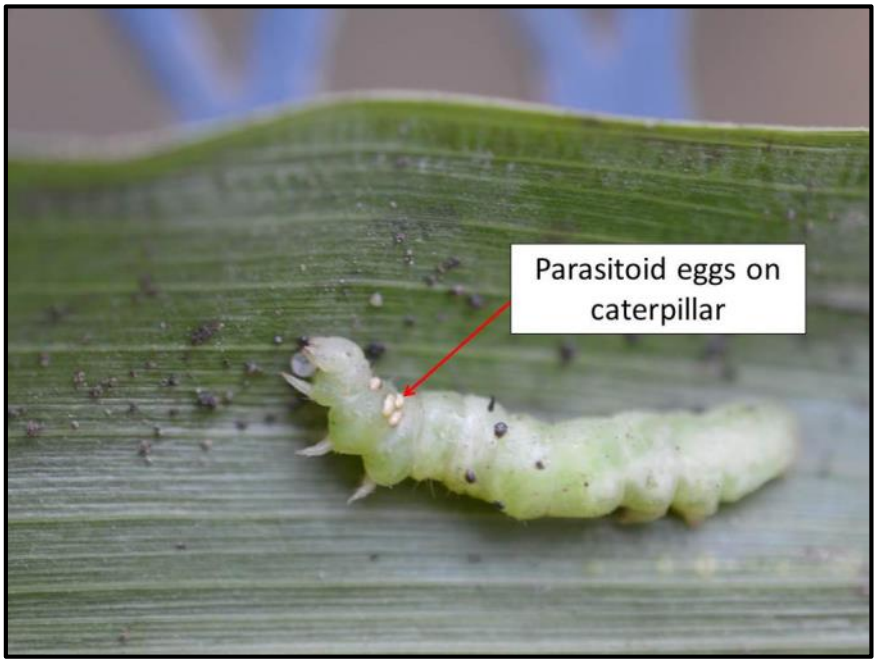
Beneficial's

It is interesting to note that some larvae are being parasitized by beneficial insects, which should be considered when determining the need for an insecticide application.



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Jeff Whitworth Holly Schwarting

Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

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

Eva Zurek

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Sincerely,

Jeff Whitworth
Extension Specialist
Field Crops
phone: 785/532-5656
e-mail: jwhitwor@ksu.edu

Holly Schwarting
Research Associate
Phone: (785) 532-4730
e-mail: holly3@ksu.edu

Eva Zurek
Insect Diagnostician
Phone: (785) 532-4710
e-mail: ezurek@ksu.edu

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Department of Entomology