

# Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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September 3, 2015 No 20

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## Sorghum headworms...plus sugarcane aphid – What to do?

With sustained southerly winds continuing for the next 4-5 days, sugarcane aphids (SCA) are moving north. New detections this week include Barton, Ellsworth and Riley counties, with other in-between counties likely infested and only awaiting detection. Given the heavy populations of headworms this year (fall armyworm and corn earworm), I have been getting questions about how best to obtain control of both pests simultaneously. A lot of these worms are getting too big to treat and will pupate soon, so do not consider treatment if a majority (>50%) are more than 1.0-1.25 inches long.

Products of choice for SCA control are Transform® (sulfoxaflor, Dow Agro.) and Sivanto® (flupyradifurone, Bayer) that block aphid feeding and have good absorption into leaves (translaminar activity). However they will not control the headworms.



Sugarcane aphids moving from flag leaves into panicles

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Products of choice for headworms are diamides such as Prevathon®(chlorantraniliprole, Dupont) and Belt® (flubendiamide, Bayer). They provide excellent control of caterpillars and require consumption by the insect to be activated, so they tend to be more selective for beneficial insects and pollinators. Labels on all these products contain instructions indicating their general compatibility with other products in tank mixes. This morning I mixed up a blend of Transform and Prevathon in 200 ml of water and it seemed to form a nice 'milk' – I did not see any adverse reactions such as formation of a precipitate. The Transform is a wettable granule formulation, so add the granules first and agitate well before adding an emulsifiable concentrate or other liquid formulation. It is always a good idea to check a small mix in a jar first if you haven't combined particular products before. Finally, I recommend **avoiding the use of all pyrethroid materials** in sorghum because of their potential to kill of beneficials and make the aphid problems even worse.

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J.P. Michaud, Hays, KS

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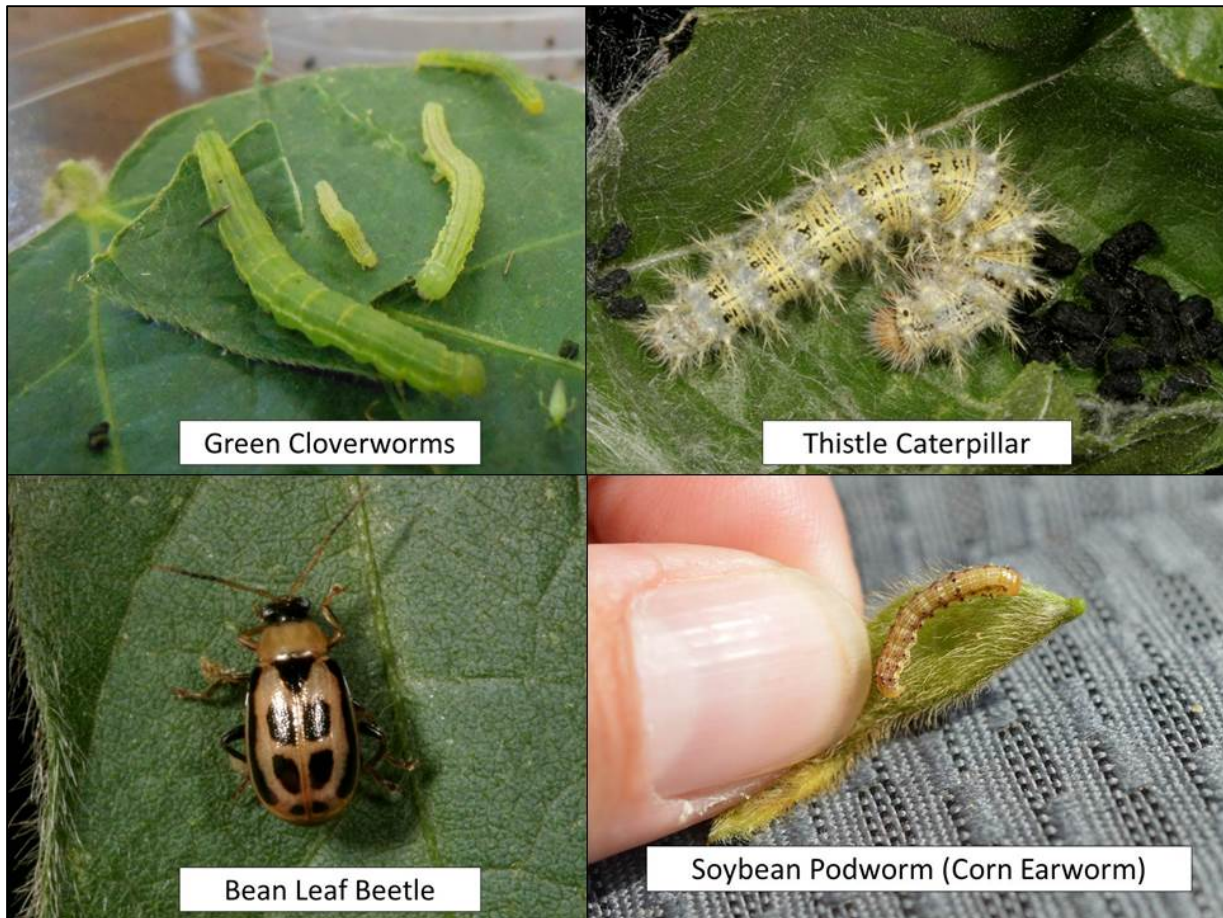
## Soybean Pest Update

Soybean aphids are still relatively common throughout north central Kansas. Their numbers don't seem to be increasing but they are easy to find in most fields. Thus, please be vigilant as these are aphids and populations can increase quickly under the right conditions.

Numerous defoliators are present in soybeans including green cloverworms, soybean loopers, a few bean leaf beetle adults, a few soybean podworms (corn earworms), the occasional thistle caterpillar, and some grasshoppers (see pics).

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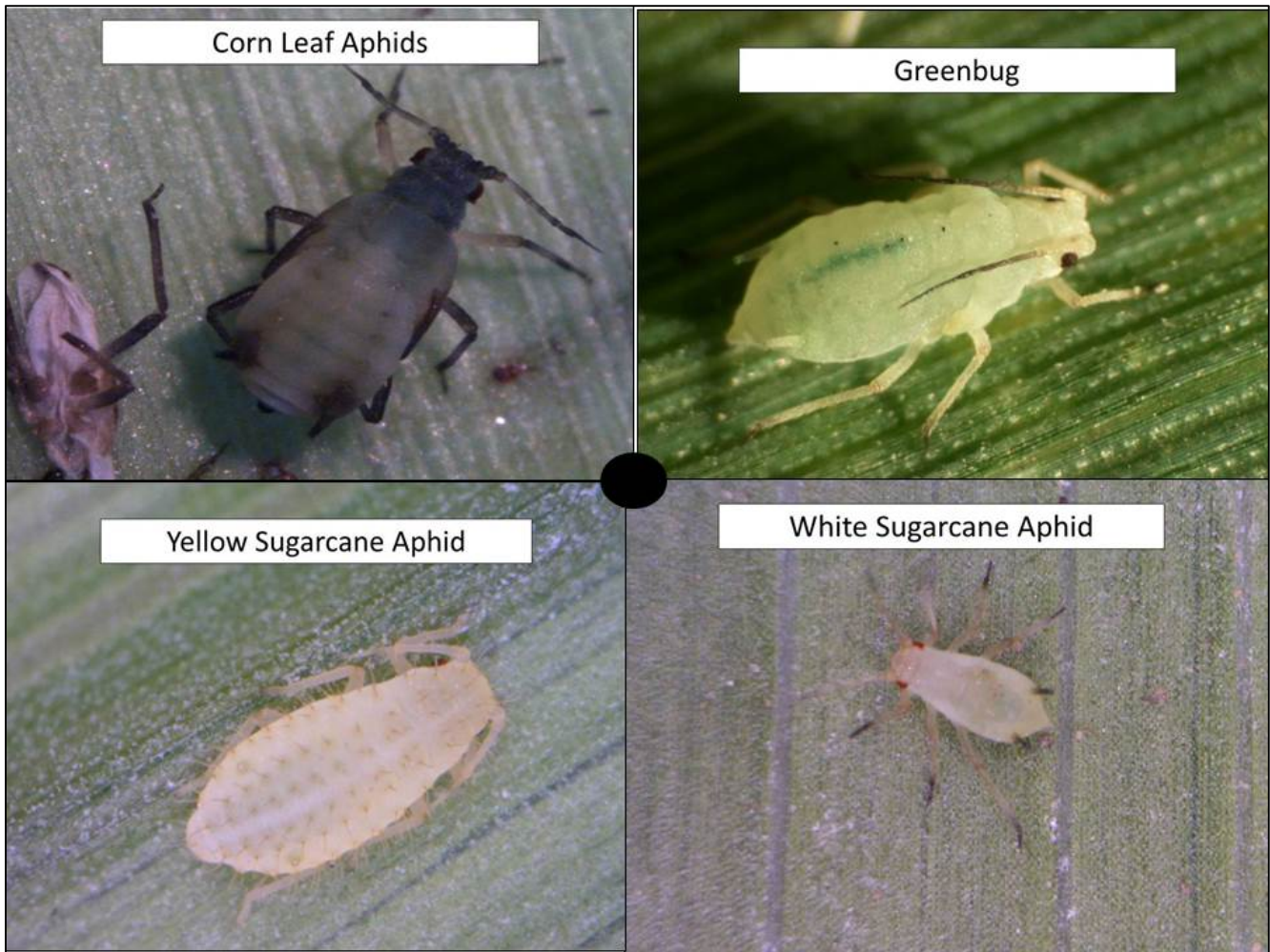
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## Sorghum Pest Update

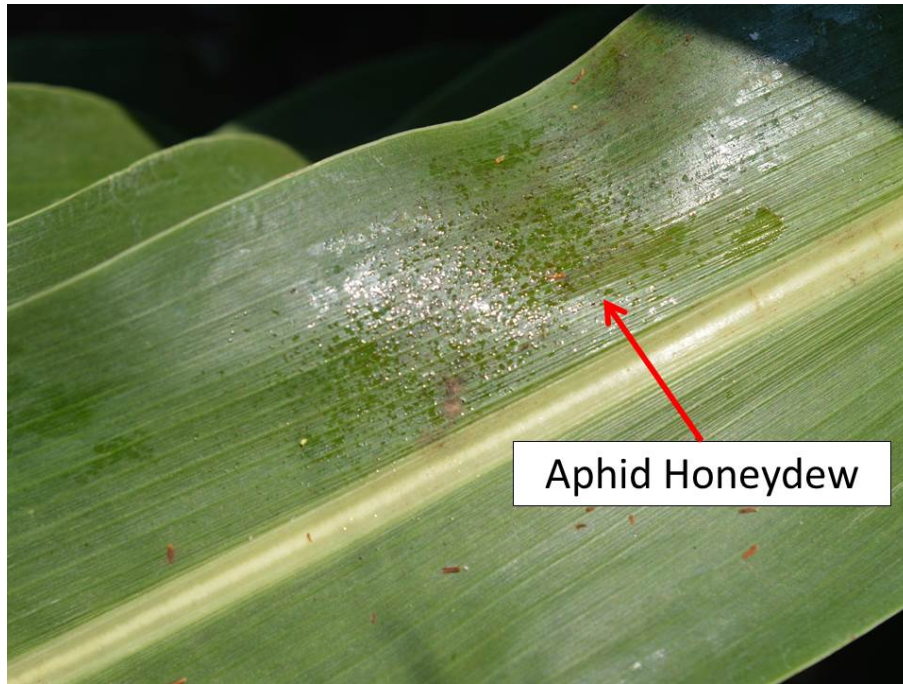
Aphids are becoming easier to find in sorghum fields throughout south central and north central Kansas. However, they are a mixture of greenbugs, corn leaf aphids, yellow sugarcane aphids and the new-to-Kansas white sugarcane aphid.

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Probably the easiest way to find aphids is to look for the shiny/wet looking leaves and then examine the undersides of the leaves immediately above the 'wet' leaves. This is the honeydew produced by a colony of aphids.



Headworms are still very common throughout north central and south central Kansas. There are all stages present, but remember the sorghum is vulnerable from flowering to soft dough. These headworms may cause up to 5% loss/worm/head throughout the approximately two weeks that they are feeding directly on the grain.



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## Volunteer Wheat

Please remember the absolute best way to help mitigate most wheat pests, including insects, mites, and pathogens is to control all volunteer wheat. Volunteer wheat, at the very least, should be killed at least two weeks prior to the planted crop germination.

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Jeff Whitworth

Holly Schwarting

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## 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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