

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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June 12, 2015 No 9

Corn Pest Update
When the Dam Breaks, All Heck Breaks Loose – Periodical Cicadas
Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

Corn Pest Update

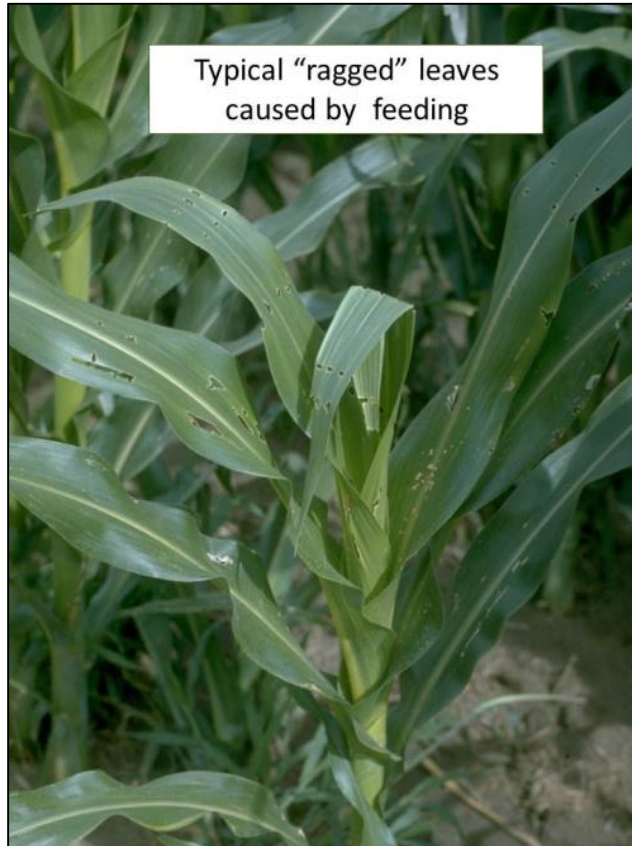
Checking corn fields between rains indicates some insect activity. The most visible seems to be corn earworm larvae. The fields we checked in north central Kansas were in the 8-9 leaf stage and the corn earworm larvae had probably been feeding for about a week. However, the feeding is only noticed after the leaves unfurl as the larvae are hidden inside the furled leaves.



Kansas Insect Newsletter

June 12, 2015 No 9

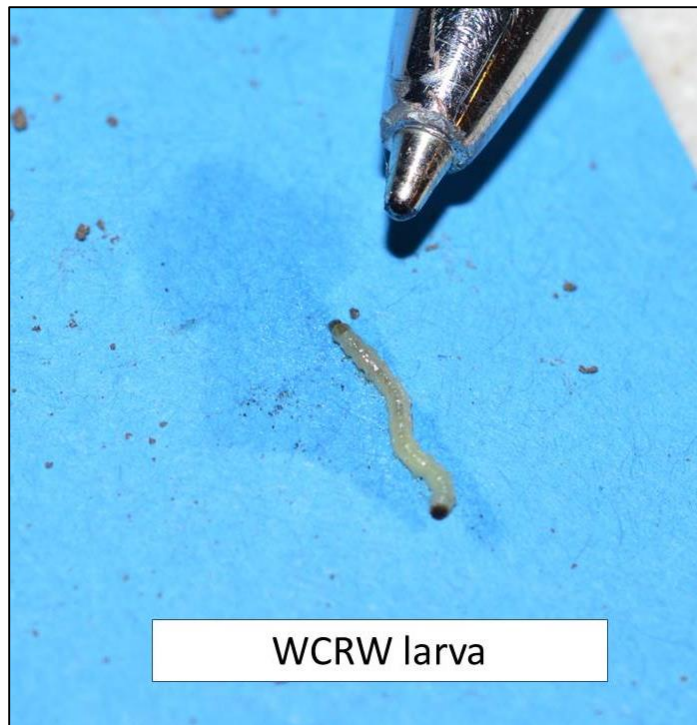
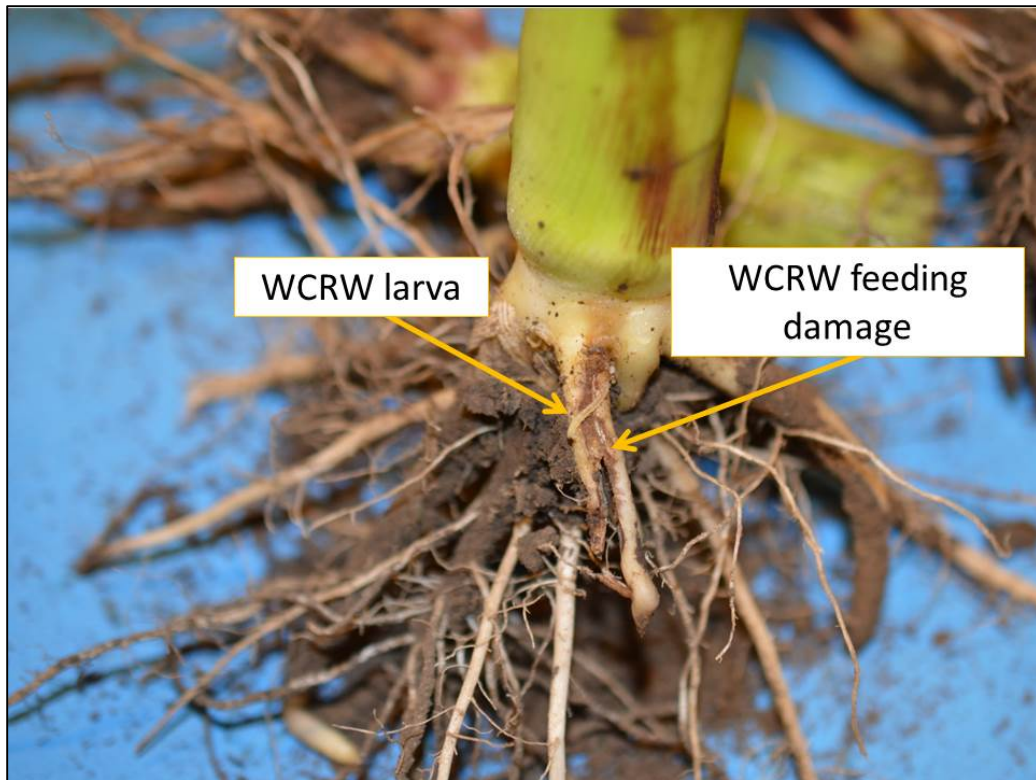
These larvae, plus fall armyworms, armyworms, etc., will be feeding from now throughout the whorl stage causing these “ragged” looking leaves but have very little, if any effect on yield. That, plus the fact that insecticide treatments don’t penetrate into the site where these larvae are feeding discourages spraying.



We also found western corn rootworm (WCRW) larvae feeding on corn roots. This field was sampled last weekend but no larvae were detected. However, in this same field, the larvae hatched and have fed on the roots as seen in the picture. Just in the last 3-4 days, larval feeding has caused some root damage.

Kansas Insect Newsletter

June 12, 2015 No 9



Jeff Whitworth

Holly Schwarting

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Kansas Insect Newsletter

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When the Dam Breaks, All Heck Breaks Loose – Periodical Cicadas

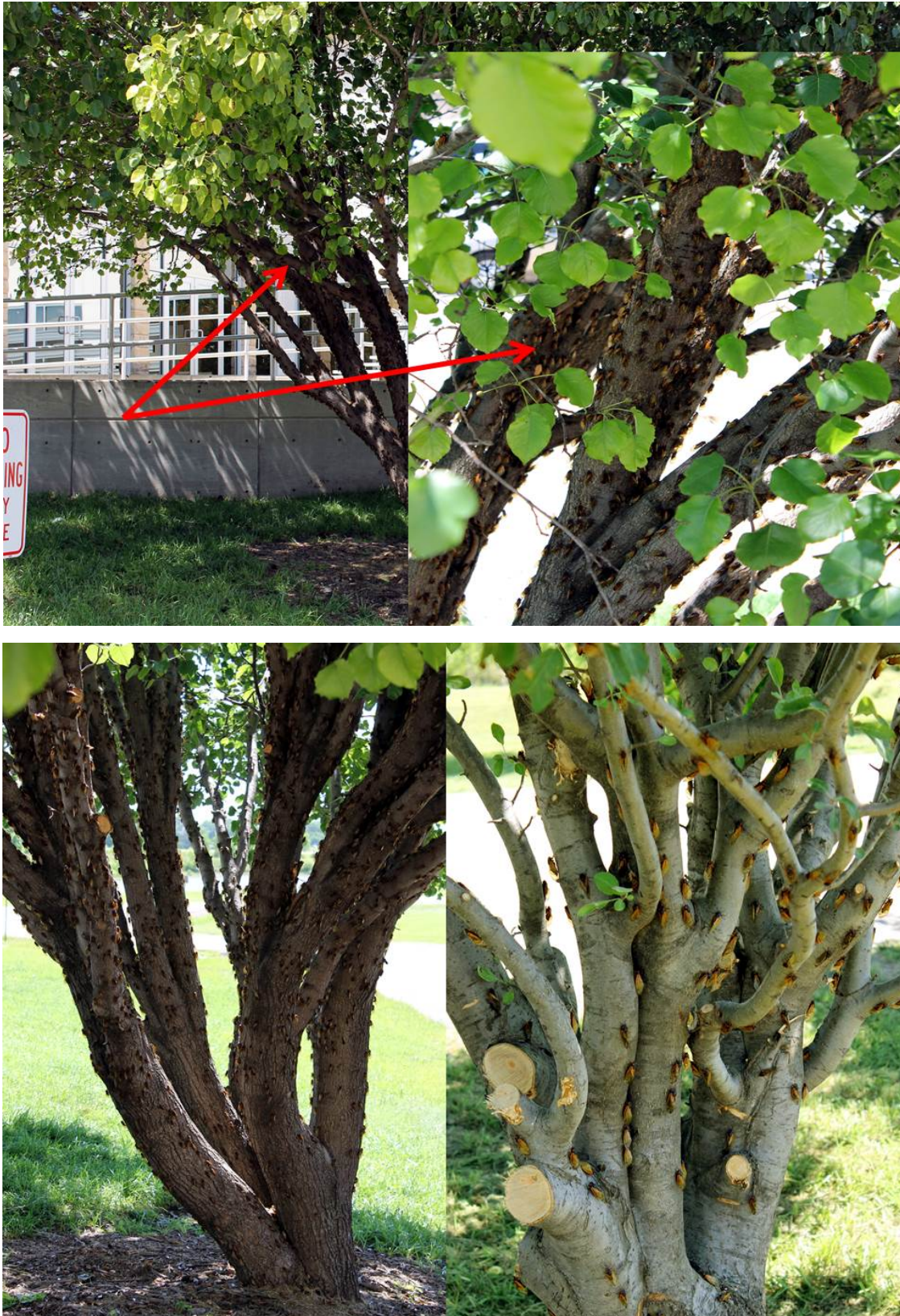
Probably the most famous flood resulting from a broken dam is the Johnstown Flood. Doubtful that such could ever happen again given that “oldtime” dams were not constructed like modern day dams, and communities would not be put in potential paths-of-danger. I don’t know all of the details, but extensive rains added to the waters behind the dam building to the point that the dam could no longer hold back the waters. The dam burst and the deluge of water swept down and flooded the town (Johnstown, PA) downstream.

So again, stretching-the-rubberband-thin (as I often do): periodical cicadas. Eleven days ago (as I now write this), I observed and collected my first periodical cicadas --- one here, one there, and so on. Pretty quiet. Four days later, I drove a gravel road with windows down ---- listening listening listening. In fact I would stop (to eliminate wheel noise) to listen. And even shut the motor off to listen. I would pick up cicadas calling from certain groves.

Three days later, the dam had burst. That is, with windows down and driving 60+ mph, the wind blowing in my ears and the hum of the tires on-the-pavement road were not enough to drown out the **LOUDNESS** of periodicals from both sides of the road. Also, more and more people have become aware of and reported periodicals now that (probably) the greatest percentage of their emergence has occurred. While I have taken images of what I thought were impressive numbers of periodicals, nothing compares to those which I received from Ron Embry/Sarah Jaster at the Webster Conference Center, Salina, KS. This brought to my mind an acronym that I use on occasion: TMTC = Too Many To Count! While not useful for inserting into any formula for purposes of scientific statistical analyses, it serves to satisfy me in terms of relating uncountable numbers. You be the judge.

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June 12, 2015 No 9



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June 12, 2015 No 9

Bob Bauernfeind

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Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

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

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Sincerely,

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Kansas Insect Newsletter

June 12, 2015 No 9



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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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