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Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

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Wheat Head Armyworm Update:

Things died down fairly rapidly on the wheat head armyworm once everyone became ware of the problem and decided on a plan to deal with the situation. Indications are that damage was higher in some of the first wheat delivered in western Kansas and generally later harvested wheat had less damage, but it is not really clear why this was the case. Possibly the earlier maturing wheat was just at a more attractive stage when the moths were laying eggs, or the early truckloads contained more test cuttings from around the edges of fields. Whatever the case, many people said they had never seen this damage their wheat before and stories of worms crawling over trucks and out of dump pits will be in everyone's minds for a long time. In most cases there really probably was not enough damage to really justify any type of treatment. Discounts of only a few cents per bushel would not have paid for an insecticide application nor the scouting that would have been required to find the worms. However, in some fields, if growers would have caught the problem early significant savings might have occurred if the fields would have been treated. I am sure everyone in western Kansas will be watching this pest a little closer the next few years, but in all likelihood the problem will not occur again unless we have just the right weather conditions. Thus when it does occur again it may be in a different area of the region.

Phil Sloderbeck

Thrips and Fleahoppers:

Cool weather has been keeping the cotton from growing fast enough to outgrow thrips populations and many fields have received multiple applications for this pest. Hopefully the warmer weather we are currently experiencing will get us past the 4 leaf stage where thrips are seldom much of a threat.

The next pest to watch for on cotton is generally fleahoppers. Begin scouting for this pest when cotton reaches the 6th leaf stage. Scouting can be difficult as adults can be very flighty and may jump from the plants if they observe an approaching shadow. In prebloom, if more than 20% of the small squares are being lost examine the plants for

fleaoppers. Thresholds in Oklahoma during the first 3 weeks of squaring call for treatment at levels of 40 fleaoppers/100 terminals. This represents a fairly significant level of infestation – much more than what is commonly observed in Kansas cotton fields so far.

Phil Sloderbeck

Soybean Aphid:

Nebraska has reported a few soybean aphids during some intensive sampling and the map at Soybean Aphid Watch --



[\[link\]](#) is showing Indiana and Illinois as having reported aphids this year. Thus growers in eastern Kansas are advised to be on the look out for this pest. If any aphids are found on soybeans we would like to know and possibly receive a sample (dead aphids in alcohol) so we can track the spread of this pest. Send reports and samples to John Reese, Kansas State University, Department of Entomology, 123 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506 – jreese@oznet.ksu.edu . We will report the status of the infestation in Kansas in this newsletter and on our web site at:

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/entomology/extension/InsectInfo/Soybeanaphid.htm> . For more information on this pest see our new flyer on the Soybean Aphid and Soybean Stem Borer sponsored by the Kansas Soybean Commission at: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml1/SoybeanBrochure.pdf>

Phil Sloderbeck

Western Corn Rootworms:

First adult Western Corn Rootworm was collected from central KS on 26 June. However, after examining several root systems, there are still many second and third instar larvae in the soil feeding. Many cornfields have not yet tasseled so there is the potential of silk feeding as the beetles will already be present. This is always a cause for alarm among growers and should be carefully evaluated as silking progresses. It usually takes eight or more beetles per plant actively feeding on the silks as they start to emerge to economically affect pollination, i.e. seed set. Silk clipping after pollination does not affect yield. If you're scouting your fields with adult control in mind (to reduce populations prior to oviposition in an effort to eliminate the need for a planting-time insecticide application) please remember the treatment threshold for whole-plant visual counts is 0.6 beetles per plant. If you're using the Pherocon AM sticky trap (by Trece') the treatment threshold recommendation is 25 beetles/trap/week or 15/trap/week for two consecutive weeks. Data is still being analyzed as to the treatment threshold relative to the Pherocon CRW Trap (by Trece'). Please refer to the Corn Insect Management (2003) Recommendation Guide available at all County Extension offices for insecticide labeled for Western Corn Rootworm adult control.

Jeff Whitworth

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostic Laboratory for the week of June 23 through June 27, 2003:

6-23-2003, Riley County: Male Lone Star Tick off person.
6-23-2003, Marshall County: Roundheaded, Flatheaded Borers in fence posts.
6-24-2003, Sherman County: Dark Mealworm adults in home.
6-25-2003, Leavenworth County: Indian Meal Moths in home.
6-25-2003, Pratt County: Aphids on Willows.
6-26-2003, Phillips County: Brown Recluse Spider in office.
6-26-2003, Johnson County: Hackberry Engraver in tree.
6-27-2003, Graham County: Springtails in home.
6-27-2003, Mitchell County: Sugarcane Rootstalk Weevil in Sorghum.
6-27-2003, Osage County: Cerambycid Larvae, Fly larvae in firewood.
6-27-2003, Johnson County: Winged Ant from home.
6-27-2003, Harvey County: Hemierana marginata on perennials.
6-27-2003, Johnson County: Lone Star Tick off person.

If there are any questions regarding these samples or about the identification of any arthropod please contact the Insect Diagnostician (Bobby Brown) at 785-532-6154 or at bbrown@oznet.ksu.edu.

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Sincerely,

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