

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>

May 9, 2008.....No. 6

Insect Shipping Solution

In the fall of 2007, we were alerted to a potential safety hazard of shipping insect samples in alcohol. Since that time, we have been working to develop an alternative procedure for shipping small soft-bodied insects to our insect diagnostic lab without the need for hazardous liquids. Thus, we are now proposing the following solution: Small, immature or soft-bodied specimens can be shipped in small glass vials filled with vinegar. This material is inexpensive and can be purchased at any local grocery store. Do not use rubbing alcohol, ethyl alcohol, formalin, formaldehyde, or other similar preservatives as these are flammable, hazardous and may violate federal Department of Transportation shipping regulations. Keep in mind that water is not a preservative and insects can discolor and decompose if shipped in plain water. When shipping insects in vinegar, make sure the lid is on tight and secure the cap with tape. Wrap the vial in a paper towel and seal inside a plastic bag. Put the bag in a small box or mailing tube filled with packing material to prevent breakage of the vials(s).

More detailed shipping instructions can be found on our web site at <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/extension> under the tab for diagnostician.

Tom Phillips and Phil Sloderbeck

Early Season Corn Pests

Corn planting has been delayed because of the wet weather and even if planted, the cooler temperatures have slowed germination. This is an important time to make frequent inspections regarding stand establishment, as the longer the seed takes to germinate, the more risk there is of damage by insects. Seed corn beetles, seed corn maggots, wireworms, and white grubs are some of the early season pests contributing to poor stands. Seed treatments help to protect against these pests, but that protection usually only lasts for 21-28 days from the time the seed was planted. There haven't been reports of any cutworm problems yet, so maybe we'll escape with little impact this year.

Later emerging corn may be more vulnerable to flea beetles, southern corn leaf beetles, billbugs, and chinch bugs. Again, seed treatments may offer some protection, but only up to 28 days. There is no substitute for frequent scouting and, if a problem does exist, making careful identification of the cause. Sometimes, the solution may be as simple as to delay replanting until the pest problem has gone away, is no longer in the damaging stage, etc. Making proper identification can lead to sound management decisions and these management options are available on our website at:

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/Mf810.pdf>

Jeff Whitworth and Holly Davis

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Swarm Catcher List Online

Last fall K-State Extension Entomology posted the swarm catcher list online that some of you sent in forms to be included on. The list is at:

<http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=687>

You must click on the purple “Honey Bee Swarm Catchers” at the bottom of the page. A PDF file will open at that time which contains: the list of beekeepers who agreed to be posted on the internet (via registration form or by phone), a map of approximately where the swarm catchers are located, and the registration form to become a swarm catcher, all on the same file.

There is a disclaimer stating that this list is voluntary, and that beekeepers have the right to refuse answering a swarm call. Conditions listed initially by the beekeepers have also been posted at this site.

Kansas County Extension Agents now have this information as of their March 2008 Ag Agent Update meetings. Many agents call each year to learn where beekeepers might be located for catching swarms. County Agents have also been informed that there are remaining names on the list which either did not want to be listed on the internet, or, that we are aware of and will only refer to those names when specifically requested for an area since we don't have permission to post them.

If you, as a beekeeper, are interested in being listed on this site, please complete the Beekeeper Registration for and return it to Sharon Dobesh, KSU Entomology Department.

This is only a start. The plan is to send out ‘update’ postcards approximately every-other year to keep the list as updated as possible. If a beekeeper wants to be removed at any time, please

contact Sharon Dobesh at 785-532-4748 or by e-mail at sdobesh@ksu.edu or for any other questions/concerns.

Beekeeper (Swarm Catcher)

Information

Kansas State University Extension Entomology and the Kansas Department of Agriculture–Plant Protection and Weed Control Program, each year, receive multiple requests from across Kansas regarding honey bee swarms and bee removal. These offices have a short list of beekeepers willing to collect swarms. If you are a beekeeper who would like us to refer swarm requests to you for collecting, please fill out the following form and send to:

Sharon Dobesh
Department of Entomology
Kansas State University
123 West Waters Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506

If you have any questions, Sharon can be contacted at 785-532-4748 or by e-mail at sdobesh@oznet.ksu.edu.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip
Code: _____

Contact Phone
Number: _____

E-mail
Address: _____

Please list any exceptions or limitations (i.e.- swarms only, not from wall voids, times best to call, list radius from home or counties willing to collect swarms from):

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Would you like to be listed as a bee swarm catcher on the Extension Entomology and/or KDA web pages? Yes No

Only KSU and KDA will have this information unless you indicate willingness to be listed on the website. Information not listed on the website will only be given over the phone those who specifically call with a legitimate swarm call.

Each year we will send out a contact card to those who sign up requesting that you update contact information and to make sure you are still interested in being on the list.

Thank you for your participation and helping us maintain a current list of those who are interested, active swarm catchers. We continue to look forward to working with the Kansas Beekeepers!

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Dobesh
Extension Pesticide & IPM Coordinator
785/532-4748

Bill Scott
KDA-PPWC Program Leader
785-862-2180

(November 28, 2007)

Call for Small Hive Beetles

As spring gears up and beekeepers begin working in their hives, ordering new package bees and

inspecting everything closely for the new season, I would like to request that beekeepers keep an eye open for small hive beetles.

For a couple years we've been hearing that small hive beetle has been found/is in Kansas. Even with those claims, there is no official record of small hive beetle in the state. To get an official record, we need to have specimens collected and sent in for identification. A complete sample will include the insects (in a non-crushable container/box), and a diagnostic form with information completed on date collected, site, etc. For this purpose, the Extension Entomology has created a Small Hive Beetle ID form (see attached).

If any beekeepers find small hive beetle, please collect samples and send them to the: Diagnostic lab

Kansas State University
Entomology Department
123 West Waters Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506

Once official samples are received, we can document it into the extension diagnostic site, place specimens into the KSU Entomology Museum, and let KDA-Plant Protection and Weed Control Program know and hopefully get additional specimens also.

Thank you for your help putting this pest 'officially' on the map!

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Kansas Small Hive Beetle Sample Data Form

Date collected: _____

County where sample was collected: _____

Collected by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Found: _____ Established Hive _____ New Bee shipment

Estimated number of Small Hive Beetles present: _____

Describe any recent (within the last year) movement (across county or state lines) of established hive or if new shipment, where bees were from:



Mail to: Diagnostic Lab
KSU Entomology Dept.
123 West Waters Hall

Small hive beetle adult (*Jeff Lotz*) http://www.bugwood.org/factsheets/small_hive_beetle.html

Date: _____

Small Hive Beetle: Positive Negative

If Negative, ID of specimen(s): _____ Entomology Disgnostician

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Agriculture Hall of Fame Display on Honey Bees Opens March 2008

The National Agriculture Hall of Fame, located at Bonner Springs, KS, is currently working on a new display about honey bees. The Agriculture Hall of Fame staff are working very hard to make sure this is an interactive display. The K-State Integrated Pest Management Program has recently donated a beehive, a two small beekeeper suits for visitors to try on, smokers, bee trap, and honey bees preserved in acrylic, among other supplies to be used for educational and hands-on purposes.

Tim Daugherty, the Agriculture Hall of Fame Director, says they are trying to move from the traditional “don’t touch” type of displays to more hands-on. The honey bee display is the first to go this new direction. Focusing on honey bee’s importance to agriculture and the challenges beekeepers face such as colony collapse disorder. The display will continue to evolve and grow, being open for approximately the next 3 years.

Each year the National Agriculture Hall of Fame conducts school tours for about 5,500 school children, 3rd through 8th grades. In addition, around 15,000 other visitors are expected at the Hall of Fame annually.

March 10 opened their 2008 season. The honey bee display will be a work in progress which will continue to grow and evolve over time. Admission prices are: \$7.00 for Adults, \$6.00 for seniors (62 & older), \$3.00 for Children (ages 5-16), and children 4 years old and under are free. All are welcome to attend.

Heartland Honey of Spring Hill, KS helped the K-State IPM Program obtain many of the supplies that were donated. Acknowledgement also needs to go to Steve White, retired, and the Kansas Department

of Agriculture Plant Protection and Weed Control Program for their help in making the acrylic encased honey bee workers and Queens which were donated.



Sharon Dobesh

Weekly Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostician Laboratory from May 2nd to May 8th.

May 02 2008: Neosho County – Scale insects on barberry

May 06 2008: Riley County – Paper nest wasp

May 07 2008: Lyon County – Oribatid mites on Bur Oak

If there are any questions regarding these samples or about the identification of any arthropod please contact the Insect Diagnostician at (785) 532-4739 or GotBugs@ksu.edu or holly3@ksu.edu.

Holly Davis

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Sincerely,

Holly Davis
Insect Diagnostician
Phone: (785) 532-4739
e-mail: holly3@ksu.edu

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

Phil Sloderbeck
Extension Specialist- Entomology
Southwest Research and Extension Center
Garden City, KS
Phone: 620/275-9164
e-mail: psloderb@ksu.edu

Sharon Dobesh
Pesticide & IPM Coordinator
Phone: (785) 532-4748
Email: sdobesh@ksu.edu



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