

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/entomology/extension/extension.htm>

## Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

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## Woolly bear caterpillars:

A number of people have asked about the numbers of woolly bear caterpillars that are crawling across roads, feeding on soybean foliage, and just generally becoming more obvious. In most situations, soybeans have dropped or are rapidly dropping their leaves and treatment is not warranted.



Woolly bear caterpillar on soybean foliage

I ran across what appears to be a great web site that provides information about their biology, life cycle, and it contains wonderful pictures, helpful in sorting out related or visually similar species. The number of woolly caterpillars are particularly visible right now because they are actively seeking sheltered places to pass the winter. The larvae may feed for a brief period next spring, then start the process of transforming themselves into moths of the Arctiidae family. This site is particularly informative because it also shows images of the moths, which helps readers make the link between larvae and adults. To view this information, point your browser to <http://www3.islandtelecom.com/~oehlkew/indexarc.htm>.

Randy Higgins

## Brome and Grubs:

Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Office, has been responding to a scattering of calls about grubs in brome. The seriousness of the problem in local areas becomes apparent when you look at a few images that

Chuck shared with us. Skunks and other insect feeding animals will frequently dig grubs up from heavily infested areas as they forage for food.



Brome damaged by grubs

We are working with Gary Boutz with the Kansas Department of Agriculture to see if one or more insecticidal products can be made available to help provide producers with effective options for controlling grubs and protecting their stands of brome. As more information becomes available, we will share it through normal outlets, including future issues of this newsletter.

Randy Higgins

## Green Cloverworm in Soybeans – Follow-Up and Images:

Questions: So what happened to all the green cloverworm larvae that were in soybeans? Will they be a problem next year? Answers: The light green larvae that were so abundant have finished their second generation cycle for this year. Many suffered the fate of being destroyed by a fungal pathogen that turned their bodies a fuzzy green color after death. Then, after the spores blew or washed away to infect other larvae, a hard white remnant of their bodies were all that remained. A number of larvae survived the predator, parasitoid, and fungal onslaught and were able to pupate in the leaf duff, generally near the base of soybean plants. These lucky ones gave rise to the charcoal and brown patterned, delta-winged moths that are so numerous right now around lights and they can be found virtually everywhere. Next year's green cloverworm populations will have very little to no relation with the abnormally high densities of larvae that we experienced this year.



Images of green cloverworms and fungal pathogen



Images of green cloverworms and fungal pathogen

-- Randy Higgins

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Sincerely,

Randall Higgins  
Extension Specialist  
Entomology (Crops)