

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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April 11, 2014 No 2

Alfalfa Weevil

Several alfalfa fields were sampled in north central KS on 9 April. Two fields had no alfalfa weevil larvae – at least we couldn't find any and no feeding was evident. Two fields had larvae which were obviously just hatching (see larvae on the left Photo 1). These were the smallest larvae we have ever been able to sample. These larvae were only detected by taking clumps of stems and vigorously shaking them in a white bucket. There were not enough larvae to determine an infestation rate – yet. However, with the warmer weather egg hatching and larval development will proceed quickly. Likewise, it was very difficult to find any feeding damage (see Photo 2). One field, however, had larger larvae (see larvae on the right side of the Photo 1), but again very little damage and these larvae could only be found along the edge of the field in some grassy, i.e. more protected areas. Thus, alfalfa fields need to be periodically monitored for the next three weeks as alfalfa weevil larvae continue to develop. Do not be too quick to treat these fields as weather seems to be playing a major role in alfalfa weevil infestation level and developmental rate.



Photo 1



Photo 2

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

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Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

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

Eva Zurek

Sincerely,

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