

# Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel



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## Alfalfa Update – Weevils and Aphids

Adult alfalfa weevils may still be infesting some alfalfa fields. They are very common under windows and/or still active in the few fields that have not yet been swathed (see photo 1). The adult alfalfa weevil will feed, but not as voraciously as the larvae. The adults will remain under the windrows, because it is shaded, chewing on the stems. The resulting damage is often called ‘barking’ (see photo 2). Even if the windrows are removed within a couple of days this will usually result in the characteristic striped fields, with the areas that were under the windrows noticeably shorter than the areas not under windrows because they were not fed upon by adult weevils. These adults will leave the alfalfa fields upon removal of the windrows. However, those fields not yet swathed may have adult weevils remaining in them and they will feed on the new growth.



Photo 1



Photo 2

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There are also a few spotted alfalfa aphids starting to infest alfalfa fields. There seem to be plenty of lady beetles however, to take care of any aphids, so far. So, just be aware that these small spotted aphids seem to do relatively well in hotter, drier conditions, and alfalfa does not – so they will add stress to the plants if populations remain and/or increase over the next couple of months.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis-Schwarting

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## Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

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

Eva Zurek

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**Sincerely,**

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