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Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

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Hessian Fly:

Scouting during the past week in Sedgwick County by Dr. Gary Cramer, Sedgwick County Extension Agent and Martin Anderson, Graduate Student conducting Hessian fly research for a Swedish Scientist, indicated Hessian fly populations in all life stages. They have detected larvae, pupae and adults on volunteer wheat. Thus, oviposition is occurring in south central Kansas and wheat already germinated may potentially be infested.

Jeff Whitworth

Copper Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) Available:

The Copper RED is out for comment and the comment period closes October 10. The Copper Task Force (CSTF), has put together a list of changes EPA made in the last revision of the table that the CSTF submitted based on your comments. Please look the list over below and also review the full table in the Copper RED. The web link for the RED is: http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/copper_red.pdf. Go to page 94 to see the table. If you have concerns about the changes, please let me know by Wednesday, October 4 so there is time to prepare the comments for submission. Please send comments to sdobesh@oznet.ksu.edu.

Sharon Dobesh

Woollybear Caterpillars and Hornworms:

As reported earlier woollybear caterpillars have been causing some concern in soybean and sunflower fields, but now larvae have been reported leaving these fields and large numbers of worms have been seen crawling across roads and bare fields. In addition there have been some reports of large numbers of hornworms (whitelined sphinx moth larvae) present in some fields and ditch banks. The obvious question is will these worms attack newly emerging wheat? The answer is probably not. Unless the fields that they are moving from are totally defoliated, the worms are most likely moving because they are full grown and are looking for a protected place to spend the winter. They also seem to prefer broadleaf plants to feed on so wheat would not be a preferred host. So while it would be good to watch newly emerging wheat closely serious feeding is not expected.

Phil Sloderbeck

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Sincerely,

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