Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel

Department of Entomology
123 West Waters Hall
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May 1, 2009 No. 7

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Super Funday

Saturday, June 6th, 2009 Registration: 8:00-8:45, Program 8:45-5:00
Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper, Lawrence KS
Cost: $25.00 per person for those pre-registered ($30.00 after May 29th)
Children under 5 free, ages 6-18, $10.00 for those pre-registered ($12.50 after May 29th)

For those pre-registered, by May 29th, there will be a drawing at the end of the Funday to reimburse 1 (one) pre-registered person for their registration!
Fee includes lunch, beverages, snacks & homemade ice cream and a full day of fun!
Morning snacks donated by the Midwestern Beekeeper's Association!
Bring your hat & veil—we'll be working through some hives

For more information contact Joli Winer at 913-856-8356 or joli@heartlandhoney.com

Visit our website at nekba.org

Our Special guests will include:

- **Gary Reuter** holds the position of Scientist in Apiculture at the University of Minnesota. He has been there since 1993. He teaches short-courses in Honey Bee Management & Queen Rearing.
- **Blake Shook:** Owner of Desert Creek Honey Co. was begun in 2004 by him (at 17 years of age) with only 2 small beehives. He now has over 400 hives and is from Blue Ridge, Texas
- **Ginger Reuter** is a wonderful craftswoman. Her beeswax items frequently win prizes at the American Beekeeping Federation competition.
- **Tara Fisher, MO Honey Queen,** Raymore MO
- **Dr. Chip Taylor, University of Kansas.** Dr. Taylor is an entomologist and a professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Hands-on Workshops:

In Hive Basics, finding eggs, larvae, working through a hive

Assembling Equipment, Robert Burns

Basic Queen Rearing, Gary Reuter

Making Mead, Gary Reuter

The Wonder of Bees, Gary Reuter

Going from hobby to sideliner, Blake Shook

Making Texas Splits, Blake Shook

Pollen Collecting, Blake Shook

Wax rendering, Steve Tipton

History of Beekeeping, Ron Ward

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Labeling, packaging & marketing honey products, Beth Ward

Building a Certified Kitchen, Beth Ward

Infused & Creamed Honeys, Michael Sinclair.

Soap Making, Robin Kolterman

Cooking With Honey, Tara Fisher

Batik, Ginger Reuter

Swarm Demonstration will be presented by

Dr. Chip Taylor from K.U.

Bee Supplies will be available

Heartland Honey and Beekeeping Supplies will bring pre-ordered items but won't be setting up a booth. Call Cecil at 913-856-8356 to place an order.

(Other supply vendors may set up for the day -- watch our website at nekba.org for updates)

Door Prizes: The swarm from the swarm demonstration will be given away in a single hive. There will be door prizes from supply dealers. You must be present to win and you must fill out an evaluation form to win any door prizes.

Motels that are in Lawrence:

Best Western, 2309 Iowa, 785-843-9100

Hampton Inn, 2300 W. 6th, 785-841-4994

Silent Auction to benefit the NE KS Beekeepers Association Youth Scholarship Program

Directions to the Douglas County Fairgrounds: Take K-10 to Harper Street, go north 2 blocks the Fairgrounds. Harper Rd. is on the east edge town and there is a directional sign to the Douglas County Fairground

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association Registration Form

2009 Beekeeping Fun Day, Saturday June 6th

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip+4_____

Phone #_____

Email address_____

___ I am a member of the Northeast KS Beekeepers

___ I am **not** a member of the Northeast KS Beekeepers

I would like to be a member--Club Membership ½ year $7.50 (membership not required) _____

Registration for Funday:

Adults $25.00 ($30.00 after May 29th or at the door) per person _____

Registration includes admission to the Funday, lunch, drinks, handouts, and an afternoon snack of homemade honey ice cream
There will be an alternative meal available at lunch for vegetarians.

Youth 5 and under free

Youth (8-18) $10.00 ($12.50 at the door & after May 29th) _____

Donation _____

Total **$_____**

Please make your check out to "Northeast KS Beekeepers or NEKBA

Mail to:
Robert Burns
7601 W. 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202
913-831-6096 or email rburns@kc.rr.com (registrations not accepted by email)

Sharon Dobesh and Phil Sloderbeck

Cold snaps in spring can flare aphids in wheat.

The roller-coaster of temperatures this spring could be setting the stage for aphid outbreaks in wheat as they have adverse effects on the beneficial insects that help keep cereal aphid populations in check.

Biological control of cereal aphids in wheat is generally good throughout most of the state, so good that we often take it for granted. However, natural aphid control is a complex ecological process involving many players and many contingencies. Aphid natural enemies consist primarily of four major insect groups: lady beetles, hoverflies, lacewings and parasitoid wasps (typical adults and larvae of these insects are shown in Fig. 1). Every spring, the adult insects must colonize each wheat field in sufficient numbers, and in a timely manner, in order to provide the requisite level of control. In other regions, pathogenic fungi can be additional sources of aphid mortality, but the climate in Kansas is usually too dry for these to contribute significantly.

The major demographic difference between aphids and their natural enemies is reproductive rate and here the aphids have a big advantage. Not only are the aphids all females that bear live young asexually (no males, no mating, no egg stage), but their daughters are essentially born pregnant with developed embryos inside them at birth. Since aphid colonies start out small, a large predator can initially eliminate multiple colonies in a short period. However, if an aphid population can achieve 'critical mass' in a field (the point where the aphid birth rate exceeds the rate of mortality caused by natural enemies) an outbreak results; biological control fails and economic losses ensue. Unfortunately, by the time aphids become readily noticeable in a field, this point has often been surpassed and a rescue treatment may be justified. Please refer to the most recent Wheat Insect Management Guide for aphid treatment thresholds and approved materials: http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/ENTML2/MF745.PDF.

In contrast to their prey, aphid natural enemies all reproduce sexually and undergo complete metamorphosis, requiring 2-4 times longer to complete a generation. Thus, biological aphid control is contingent on (1) the timely arrival of these species in sufficient numbers to consume aphid colonies while they are still small and (2) physical conditions that are conducive to their foraging and reproductive activities.

As the weather warms in spring, aphid predators leave their overwintering sites and begin actively searching, initiating reproductive activity almost as soon as they find prey. A sudden reversion from warm to freezing temperatures, as we have seen happen repeatedly this spring, has little impact on the aphids beyond temporarily slowing their reproduction. In contrast, the impact is far greater on the natural enemies; adult foraging and reproductive behavior must be curtailed and significant mortality can result, particularly for immature stages, thus diminishing both the numbers of predators and their per-capita impact on the pest population.

J.P. Michaud

Alfalfa Weevil

Recent heavy rain (4+ inches in some areas of north and south central Kansas) has significantly changed the population dynamics of the alfalfa weevil. Untreated plots in central Kansas, prior to the rain / wind event, had at least one larva / stem on 25 April, but only two larvae / 10 stems on 28 April. Thus, if you have not yet treated your fields you may want to continue to closely monitor the weevil situation to see if they were in fact controlled by the weather or just removed from the plants, in which case they may reinfest.

Jeff Whitworth

When Chickens Come Home To Roost … or… Cutworms in MY Garden

A month ago, early-season garden insect pests were addressed in Kansas Insect Newsletter #3. And we transitioned from flea beetles damaging newly emerged seeded veggies to cutworms targeting transplants. "While early-season **transplants** have a head start on flea beetles, they are a tasty morsel for cutworms".

I planted my "little garden spot" April 25 (Figures 1 and 2).

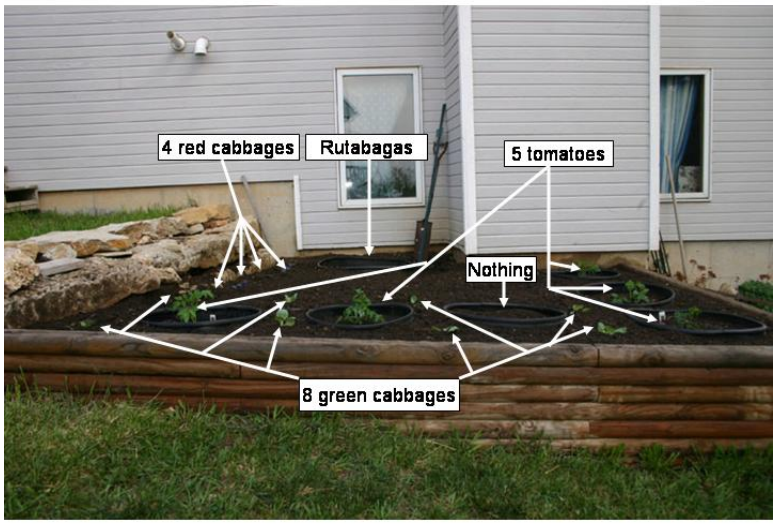

Figure 1

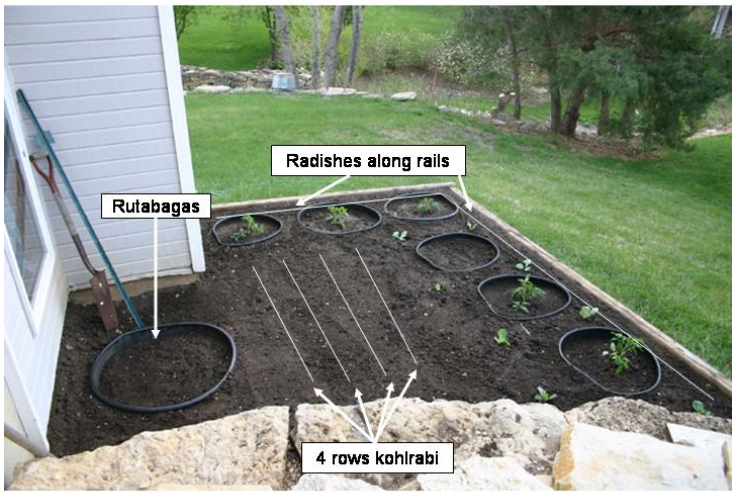

Figure 2

To reiterate (in part), "Cutworms are the larvae of various species of noctuid moths". "The cutworms occurring during the early spring growing season are those which hatch and began development the previous fall".

"Cutworms "hide" during the day and actively feed at night. Their presence becomes known when (upon checking gardens in the morning/afternoon), "cut plants" (from the previous evening's foraging) are found lying on the soil surface". And so it was that early in the morning of April 28, I found that one of my tomato plants was lying on its side (Figure 3) ------ that it had been "cut" (Figure 4).

Figure 3

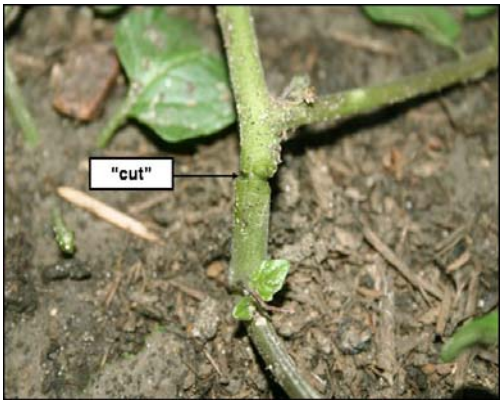

Figure 4

"The usual scenario is that only a single cutworm or two responsible for the cutting activities. Because it would be impractical for them to leave the garden with the impending daylight, they hide under surface debris or burrow into the soil adjacent to cut plants". It was evident (by the tunnel entrance) that the cutworm had burrowed into the soil (Figure 5 and 6).

Figure 5

Figure 6

"Use your finger to brush the debris or soil aside". In this instance, the hunt to uncover the cutworm was not the simple aforementioned use of a finger to brush the debris and soil aside. Because the ground was very moist, a knife blade was better at excavating around the plant to expose the cutworm. Although one would have assumed that the cutworm should have been "down" just beneath the entrance hole, the tunnel almost immediately angled off. The final resting place was 5-inches deep and on the opposite side of the plant (Figure 7).

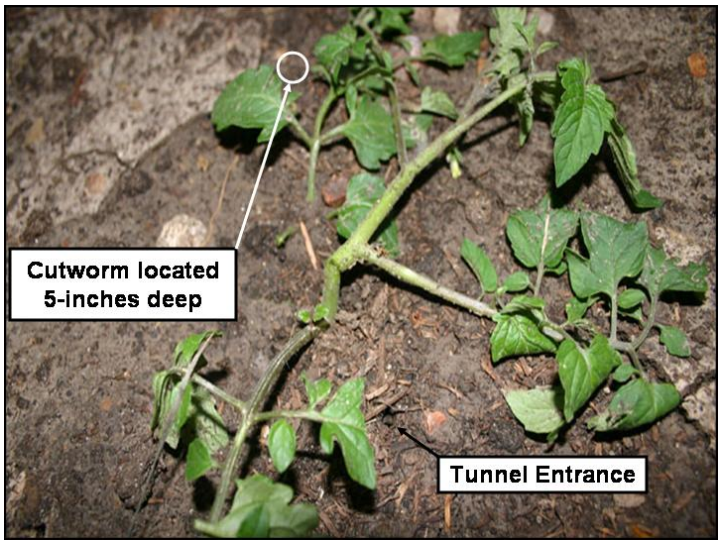

Figure 7

"In most instances, the cutworm can be found curled up". Self explanatory (Figure 8).

Figure 8

Within a minute or two, when left alone, the cutworm abandoned its "fetal" position and began tunneling back underground (Figure 9).

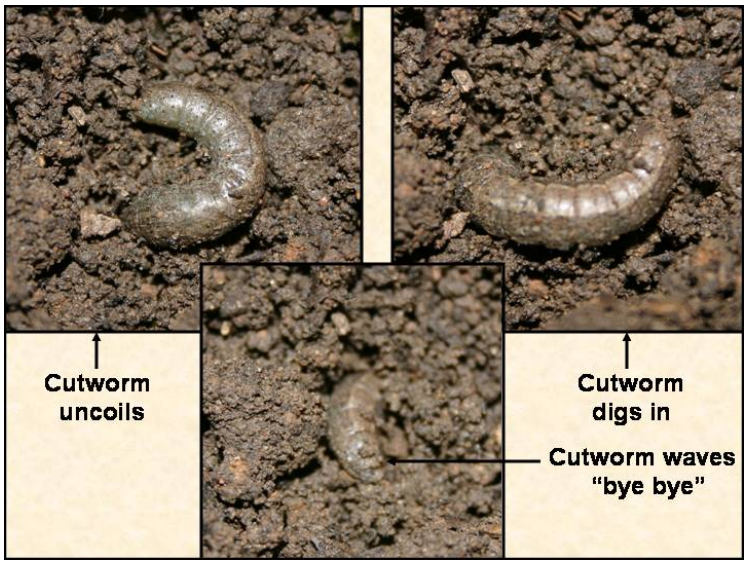

Figure 9

"While most "garden insecticides" list cutworms on their product labels, the use thereof generally is unnecessary. They can simply be picked up and disposed of." Leave it to an entomologist to be delighted to have been visited by this cutworm. In this instance, the larva was recovered and is being "babied" so that it can be used as a display specimen at an upcoming event.

The fate of the tomato plant? Although the main stem was cut, tomato plants do what tomato plants do: put out axillary shoots from the remaining leaves/stems. Being this early in the season, as the season progresses, plant recovery and fruit production is expected.

Cole crops and cutworms is a different story. Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and brussel sprout plants have 1-shot at production. After a cutworm severs a young transplant, that plant will not recover ---- it is finished. Thus it is especially important to (now) monitor cole crop transplants for cutworm activities until such time that the transplant stems have sized up beyond the cutworm's ability to sever.

Bob Bauernfeind

Report from the Kansas State University Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostician Laboratory from April 24th to April 30th.

April 24 2009 Logan County – Collembola (springtails) around outside of home
April 27 2009 Riley County – Brown dog tick nymphs found on person
April 28 2009 Ellis County – March fly swarms in garden
April 28 2009 Harper County – Lecanium (soft scale) insects on redbud
April 29 2009 Nemaha County – Oak rough bulletgalls and wasp
April 29 2009 Douglas County – Bat bugs in living area
April 29 2009 Bourbon County – Lilac/ash borer cast pupal skin
April 29 2009 Bourbon County – Winged termites in home
April 30 2009 Miami County – Brown spider beetles in home

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.

Holly Davis

Sincerely,

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