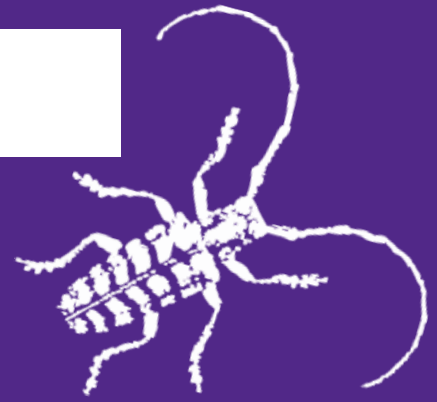


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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Alfalfa Weevils
Army Cutworms

Welcome back to a new growing season and thus New Year with our Entomology Newsletter! We start this new growing season with some old pests

Alfalfa Weevils

Alfalfa weevil larvae have been hatching throughout south central and north central Kansas for the last couple of weeks. First larvae/feeding reported from south central Ks. on 15 March and on 21 March from north central parts of the state. The easiest way to find new larvae is to note small, pinprick sized holes in leaves and/or brooming feeding damage on the tips of new terminals (see figure 1). Larval hatching and subsequent feeding will only increase as temperatures increase. It takes temperatures in the mid to low 20's(F) for a couple hours to actually adversely affect young larvae (remember 2018- and last year, 2020, in mid-April). Also, please remember-- utilize whatever treatment threshold that has been successful for you in the past (hopefully-not just spray because your neighbor is--we use a 33-50% infestation level using the "stem count bucket" sampling method). In addition, it is really important to spray with an adequate amount of carrier, i. e. water, to achieve good coverage. After application, and the reentry interval (REI) for the product used, continue monitoring as eggs may continue to hatch for another few weeks, or until swathing. Also, always check the preharvest interval (PHI) for your product of choice.



Figure 1: Leaf feeding plus 1 day old larva (photo by Cody Wyckoff)

Jeff Whitworth

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Army Cutworms

Army cutworms are again relatively common this year, however, thus far, not nearly as destructive as last year (2020). This could be because infestations are much reduced compared to 2020 - or that growing conditions have been much better than last year for both alfalfa and wheat. However, birds (and/or skunks) feeding in alfalfa or wheat fields are still the easiest way to detect army cutworm larvae.

Jeff Whitworth

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Kansas Insect Newsletter

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Sincerely,

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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