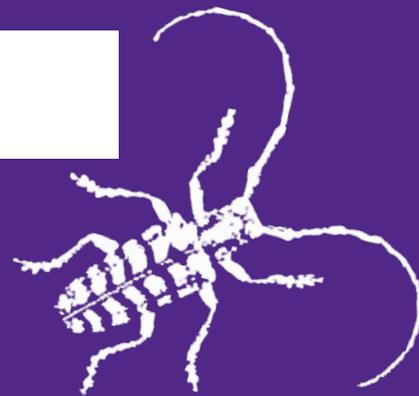


# Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

Department of Entomology  
123 West Waters Hall  
K-State Research and Extension  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506  
785-532-5891  
<http://blogs.k-state.edu/kansasbugs/>  
<http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/extension>



**June 2, 2022 No 7**

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Army Cutworms (wheat, alfalfa)  
"Wacky Entomologist" card game available  
Bug Joke of the Week

## **Army Cutworms (wheat, alfalfa)**

I have received a few calls within the last 10 days about "Miller moths" flying around lights at night and flying/running into the house when an outside door is opened the 1<sup>st</sup> thing in the morning. Those, at least from my experience and the specimens I have seen, are adult army cutworms (see pictures by Cayden Wyckoff). Like most adult cutworms, the army cutworm is a relatively thick bodied but otherwise nondescript moth. These moths are even more nondescript after losing wing scales while flying and/or hiding under objects during the day. They are a relatively agile, quick moving moth, and in Kansas always seem to be present just before and/or during Memorial weekend. As far as crops go, the army cutworm feeds on wheat or alfalfa since those were the crops growing last fall when the female moth was depositing eggs. Thus, since last fall the larvae have fed all winter and spring, pupated, emerged as adults, and are/or have headed for over- summering sites, usually somewhere in the Rocky Mountains. These same moths then, at least the ones that survive the summer, will be heading back this way in late summer or early fall and depositing eggs in wheat and alfalfa fields along the way. After depositing their eggs, these adult moths expire, but have started the next generation.



Adult army cutworm

Jeff Whitworth—Field Crops - Entomology

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HOME

## **“Wacky Entomologist” card game available**

The Kansas State Pesticide Safety and Integrated Pest Management program is excited to announce the availability of our “Wacky Entomologist” card game. The cards feature art created by Kansas youth selected from the 2020 Insect Art Contest winners. We truly have some talented artists in the state of Kansas, and this is a unique way to highlight their art. The game is like “Old Maid,” but the objective is to help the “Wacky Entomologist” match all the insects and not get stuck holding the spider. This resource would be great for summer camps, preschool teachers, art lovers and anyone who has insect-loving youth. The cards can be purchased for \$10.00 at: [commerce.cashnet.com/IPMKSU](https://commerce.cashnet.com/IPMKSU).

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Frannie Miller-- Pesticide Safety & IPM Coordinator

HOME

## Bug Joke of the Week

### ***What did the caterpillar do on New Year's Day?***

It turned over a new leaf.

Sharon Schroll

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HOME

**Sincerely,**

Jeff Whitworth  
Extension Specialist  
Field Crops  
phone: 785/532-5656  
e-mail: [jwhitwor@ksu.edu](mailto:jwhitwor@ksu.edu)

Frannie Miller  
Pesticide Safety & IPM Coordinator  
Kansas State University  
600 W. Woodside  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Phone: (620) 241-1523  
Fax: (620) 241-3407  
<http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/pesticides-ipm>

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Department of Entomology

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact *LOCAL NAME, PHONE NUMBER*. (For TDD, contact Michelle White-Godinet, Assistant Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, 785-532-4807.)

## **Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service**

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