

# Panhandle Pest Update



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## Moth Activity

Fall armyworm (FAW) moths continue to be active (July 1 catches), but they seem to be tapering off compared to trap catches for June 17 and June 24 (See FAW moth trap catches table). Whorl feeding damage is easier to find in none Bt hybrids and even in refuge plants. the damage we are finding now is from the egg laying during June 10 to June 24. With the continued

County / Trap location #	Fall Armyworm Moth Trap Catches				
	Jun 03	Jun 10	Jun 17	Jun 24	Jul 01
Dallam / 1	0	0	0	39	0
Dallam / 2	0	0	0	19	5
Deaf Smith / 1	0	0	0	17	22
Deaf Smith / 2	0	0	5	3	3
Deaf Smith / 3	0	0	11	19	40
Deaf Smith / 4	0	0	0	6	20
Hale / 1	-	-	-	-	125
Hale / 2	0	0	156	275	133
Hansford / 1	0	0	23	16	-
Hartley / 1	0	0	129	52	130
Hutchinson / 1	15	0	72	36	-
Hutchinson / 2	0	12	67	19	-
Lipscomb / 1	10	39	210	737	395
Lipscomb / 2	2	24	140	460	112
Moore / 1	0	0	88	155	70
Moore / 2	0	0	60	135	72
Ochiltree / 1	16	0	174	77	-
Parmer / 1	34	162	765	298	19
Parmer / 2	-	-	-	-	22
Randall / 1	0	61	248	560	354
Randall / 2	29	58	264	104	137
Swisher / 1	1	0	3	0	2
Swisher / 2	0	0	3	7	3

FAW moth activity, damaging larval infestation is still a threat to corn, grain grain and forage sorghums in the whorl stages, now to corn that is beginning to tassel and other crops that are a host to the FAW. For the grain crops there are not any definitive thresholds for deciding when to treat. In the June 20 issue, I compared the thresholds used by different states (Indiana, Kentucky, and



## Contents

Moth Activity .....pages 1 and 2  
 Spider Mites .....page 2

Texas). So, I can not provide you with a specific recommendation for spraying. Whorl infestations are much harder to control because of the difficulty of getting the spray in the whorl where larvae are feeding. The use of older insecticide chemistries have not provided good effective control when applied to whorl infestations. Newer insecticide such as Belt, Beseige, and Prevathon have provided better results than the older insecticides. A recent trial, by Dr. Pat Porter, indicated the pyrethroid in Beseige could have improved mortality of the larvae. However, if the field were also infested with spider mites, the pyrethroid would cause spider mite infestation to flare.

There has been a noticeable increase in **Western bean cutworm (WBC)** moths this last week in Dallam, Hartley, and Moore Counties (See WBC moth trap catches table). John Quillin, crop consultant, sent me a photograph this week of a WBC egg mass on a corn plant. We can expect the peak WBC activity to continue for the next 4 to 6 weeks, but moths could be caught in traps even longer. The moth activity this year is beginning almost a month later that they did in 2012, but similar to the beginning activity in 2013.

**Southwester corn borer (SWCB)** moths have been active for the past three weeks in counties with more corn acreage (Dallam, Deaf Smith, Hansford, Hartley, Moore and Parmer Counties). This moth activity should begin to taper-off as we reach the end



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Western Bean Cutworm Moth Trap Catches					
County / Trap location #	Jun 03	Jun 10	Jun 17	Jun 24	Jul 01
Dallam / 1	0	0	0	7	284
Dallam / 2	0	0	0	16	117
Deaf Smith / 1	0	0	0	3	7
Deaf Smith / 2	0	0	0	0	3
Deaf Smith / 3	0	0	2	0	5
Deaf Smith / 4	0	0	3	10	8
Hale / 1	0	0	0	0	0
Hale / 2	0	0	0	0	0
Hansford / 1	0	5	0	4	-
Hartley / 1	0	0	2	8	85
Hutchinson / 1	0	0	2	0	-
Hutchinson / 2	0	5	1	5	-
Lipscomb / 1	0	0	0	0	1
Lipscomb / 2	0	0	0	0	0
Moore / 1	0	0	0	9	39
Moore / 2	0	0	2	3	35
Ochiltree / 1	0	0	0	0	-
Parmer / 1	0	1	0	3	6
Parmer / 2	-	-	-	-	3
Randall / 1	0	0	3	2	4
Randall / 2	1	1	2	0	0
Swisher / 1	0	0	0	0	8
Swisher / 2	0	0	0	0	2

Southwestern Corn Borer Moth Captures					
County / Trap location #	Jun 03	Jun 10	Jun 17	Jun 24	Jul 01
Dallam / 1	0	6	15	30	10
Dallam / 2	3	10	13	105	101
Deaf Smith / 1	0	0	35	29	48
Deaf Smith / 2	0	0	25	14	0
Deaf Smith / 3	0	0	44	53	63
Deaf Smith / 4	0	0	227	178	349
Hale / 1	0	0	87	25	0
Hale / 2	0	2	0	0	0
Hansford / 1	0	15	32	111	-
Hartley / 1	1	4	93	167	58
Hutchinson / 1	0	0	0	18	-
Hutchinson / 2	0	0	7	12	-
Lipscomb / 1	2	0	0	1	2
Lipscomb / 2	0	0	0	0	0
Moore / 1	0	0	8	52	3
Moore / 2	0	5	40	105	62
Ochiltree / 1	57	27	7	31	-
Parmer / 1	36	2	200	203	13
Parmer / 2	-	-	-	-	8
Randall / 1	1	-	2	3	0
Randall / 2	1	27	4	2	3
Swisher / 1	0	0	5	0	0
Swisher / 2	0	0	0	0	3

of moths emerging from the overwintering SWCB pupae.

Also, I have heard reports of **European corn borer** moths being active. I would suspect our cooler and wet weather may be contributing to this activity.

The **White-line sphinx caterpillar** has caught the attention of everyone. I have received more calls about this caterpillar this week than another pest. Jim Elzner, crop consultant, found in grain sorghum, but they did not appear to be causing any damage. Another caller found them in corn. But in both fields the caterpillars were mostly large sized worms and on the ground. They may be consumed the weeds they were eating and are now moving around looking for more weed or they are preparing to burrow in the soil and pupate.



White-lined Sphinx caterpillars showing different coloration patterns, Photo credit: Ed Bynum

## Spider Mites

Our rains and cooler temperatures from late May through June have kept spider mite populations from getting established in heavy numbers this spring. Thrips coming out of wheat two or three weeks ago may have helped keep spider mite numbers low. This past week in my corn seed treatment trial, spider mites were still present in low numbers. This week thrips were not that abundant and other spider mite predators were not very common. Also, Greg Cronholm, retired IPM Extension agent - Hale and Swisher Counties, is not reporting many spider mite predators. This could be important if or when weather conditions become hotter and dryer, because we still have time for spider mites to build to damaging infestations. However, damaging infestations should not be as widespread as we had the past three years. Some fields may never develop damaging infestations and will not need miticide applications.