

The Entomology Program, Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Amarillo
First Quarter Report to the Texas Corn Producers Board – June 2009
by
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Four research projects are underway:

1. Spider Mite Feeding Damage Impact on Corn Ensilage Yield, Quality, and Harvest Timing
2. Evaluation of Banks Grass Mite Response to Spiromesifen Field Application and Potential Changes in Spiromesifen Tolerance
3. Flight Patterns and Management Options for Western Bean Cutworm and Southwestern Corn Borer on the Texas High Plains
4. Evaluation of Traps to Predict Western Bean Cutworm Egg Deposition and to Assist with Timing Insecticide Applications for Control

The first two projects are set up at the Texas AgriLife Research North Plains Research Field at Etter. Corn was planted, germinated, and we have a healthy stand. The future plots were laid out, alleyways cut, and flagged. Banks grass mite colonies are established at the Agronomy lab at Bushland. A precise schedule for planting corn in the greenhouses to maintain spider mites colonies is being maintained. All materials and supplies necessary to carry out the research were purchased.

The two projects involved with Southwestern corn borer and Western bean cutworm are underway. Data is being collected weekly by Mr. Camilo Garzon, an MS student with West Texas A&M University. Pheromone traps are sampled weekly. As the season progresses, fields will be searched for Southwestern corn borer and Western bean cutworm eggs on corn plants.

One final note, the Western corn rootworm model output, predicting adult emergence is updated weekly and posted on the Texas Corn Producers Board website.