



PANHANDLE PEST UPDATE



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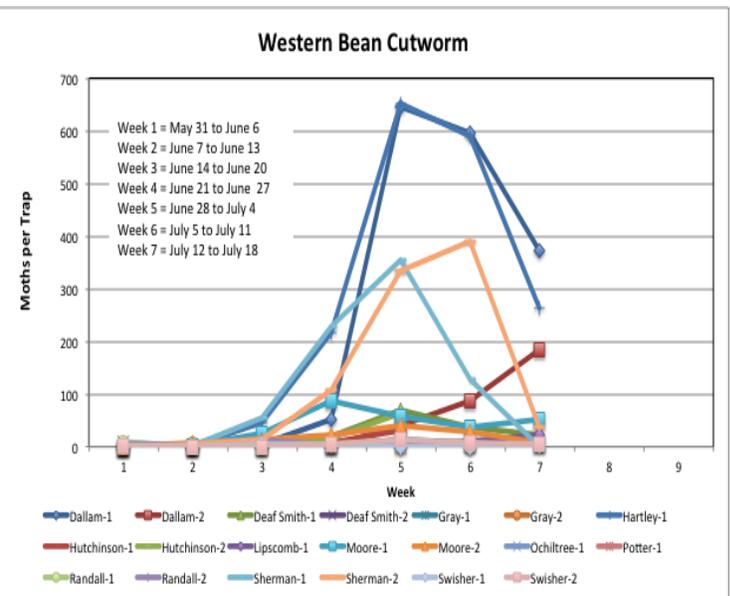
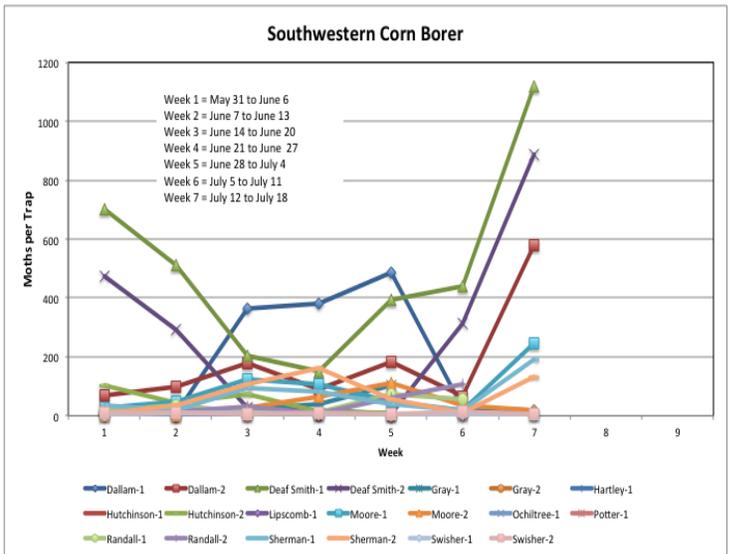
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Moths in Corn

There has been a dramatic rise in Southwestern Corn Borer moth captures this past week, specifically in Deaf Smith (1120 and 888), Dallam (581), Moore (248), and Sherman (190 and 132) counties. Traps in Deaf Smith County continue to have high numbers in comparison to the other counties and consultants in the county are finding eggs in the red line stage (see picture). Three red lines per egg form within 36 hours after being laid. As the larva develops the head capsule can be seen as a black dot and will hatch within 1 to 2 days. Moths lay eggs singly or in groups of 3-6 on leaves in the ear zone (ear leaf, 2 leave above, and 4 leaves below). But, with the hotter, dryer conditions the moths may lay on leaves in the lower portion of the plant. Corn hybrids with any of the Bt events for lepidopteran pests will provide good protection from the larvae. Non-Bt food and

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Fresh SWCB eggs (top) and 2-5 day old red line eggs (bottom)



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refuge corn may require a treatment. The action threshold in the Texas AgriLife Extension Service guide, Managing Insect and Mite Pests of Texas Corn E-400, states that *Insecticide should be applied when 20 to 25 percent of the plants are infested with eggs or newly hatched larvae.*

The Western Bean Cutworm Moth activity appears to be tapering off, but numbers continue to be relatively high in Dallam and Hartley counties.

Fall Armyworm moths continue to be relatively low in all of the counties being surveyed in the Panhandle counties. However, Dr. Pat Porter (Extension Entomologist - Lubbock) is reporting heavier moth activity in traps at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Lubbock. And, Monti Vandiver (Extension Agent - IPM, Bailey and Parmer counties) has reports of egg masses and larvae being observed in area corn. His statement from his newsletter best sums up the impact of FAW infestations. He states “while these infestations have not been extremely high to this point, this is one pest that will make me lose sleep at night; many times it is difficult to determine uniform field infestation levels, very difficult to control once established and no action thresholds are available for guidance. Control of this pest with Bt hybrids is not as predictable and is very dependent on the Bt technology used. Most of the newer stacked trait and Herculex hybrids suppress FAW better than the old single trait technology but this pest warrants continued monitoring regardless of the Bt technology used.”

Consultant’s Corner

Brian Taylor - Continues to find WBC eggs, mostly around Texline and south. An organic field of alfalfa was heavily infested with spotted alfalfa aphid.

John Quillin - Western Bean Cutworm infestations high in the north western part of Dallam County and more spotty in fields in other counties. And, he is noting spider mites increasing rapidly in tassel stage corn.

These are summary statements of my conversations with the consultants and do not reflect their statements word for word.

If anyone has something to report please call me at (806) 677-5600 or send an e-mail to ebynum@ag.tamu.edu.

