

Crosby Ag Minute

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New Extension Initiative: Path to the Plate

PATH TO THE PLATE IS A RESEARCH-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT HELPS CONSUMERS UNDERSTAND HOW THEIR FOOD CHOICES IMPACT THEIR HEALTH.

- It helps consumers understand how their food choices impact their well-being by making the connection between agriculture and health.
- By understanding more about the path their food takes to their plate - how it's grown and produced - consumers can make better food choices for themselves and their families.
- Using research-based information, Path to the Plate aims to dispel popular myths and misconceptions about food production practices.

Myths and misinformation about food production and its effect on our health is emerging ever-quickly through social media and other sources. This misinformation leads to misunderstanding of our agriculture systems and the positive connection these systems have to our health.

Facebook: Path to the Plate or on the web @ <http://pathtotheplate.tamu.edu/>

Fall Army Worm Trap– High Counts Recorded

By Dr. Pat Porter

My post two days ago said fall armyworm captures in pheromone traps were a bit above average and that it seemed we were at the start of a big flight. The traps were emptied on Wednesday, and today they had an average of 215 moths per trap.

To put this in perspective, the 7-year average for this week of the season is 115 per WEEK. So in just two nights the capture we are already 87% above the historical weekly average. There is no way to know if the numbers will remain at their current level for five more nights, but if they did then next Wednesday I would report 752 moths per trap.

Regardless of how things go for the next five days, we are now well above the 7-year average. My non-Bt corn is taking significant damage, and this is before most of the caterpillars are anywhere near large. Egg masses are easy to find.

The good news is that fall armyworm is not generally a big problem very far north of Lubbock. My colleagues and I checked research plots with non-Bt corn at both Halfway and Bushland this week and found very little damage from either fall armyworm or corn earworm. However, this might not be the case next week, especially at Halfway.

Wireworms have been a problem in spotty areas, but for the most part seed treatments have kept them in check. Corn in the area is approaching V6 - V8, and sorghum is anywhere from V5 to still in the bag. **Sugarcane aphids have not been detected on the High Plains, but sorghum planted relatively late will benefit from seed treatments to control sugarcane aphids, at least if prior years are a predictor**

Wire Worms in Cotton

By: Suhas Vyavhare

What are wireworms

Wireworms are a common cotton pest which feed on germinating seeds and emerging seedlings. Two types of wireworms feed on cotton: true wireworms and false wireworms. True wireworms, commonly called click beetles (left photo), are members of the Elateridae family, while false wireworms, or darkling beetles (right photo), are from the Tenebrionidae family.



"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."

-Thomas Jefferson

Damage

Overwintering larvae inflict the most damage as they become active in the spring. The larvae damage cotton by feeding on the root, hypocotyl (stem of the germinating seedling), and cotyledon (seed leaves) of plants before emerging from the soil. Root feeding can kill plants and reduce plant stand but usually results in stunting.

Scouting

It's hard to find crop worms that you can't see! Soil-dwelling habit of larvae makes it very challenging to scout for. Baits with mixture of either wheat grain or oatmeal and honey may help detecting the presence of wireworms in field.

Management

There are no rescue treatments. Minimize wireworm infestations through clean cultivation and fallowing. Infestations are most severe in no-tillage or reduced-tillage situations, particularly following grain crops. Planting shallow and under warm conditions allows cotton seeds to germinate rapidly and plants to outgrow wireworms. Insecticidal seed treatments and/or at plant insecticides are the most effective means of minimizing wireworm damage.

Can compost application make problem worst?

No, unless the compost is carrying any wireworms or their eggs. In general, compost can provide better environment for wireworms that already exist in the field but there are little or no data available on this.

Seed Cotton Decision Aid Meeting

Crosby County Extension Office, July 3rd @ 9:00am

Breakfast Burritos Provided. RSVP to claim your food. 675-2347