

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY WHEAT SCIENCE NEWS

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- True Armyworm Moth Counts Still Very High!
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WHEAT STREAK MOSAIC VIRUS ON WHEAT CONFIRMED AT UKREC IN PRINCETON, KY

**Doug Johnson, Extension Entomologist &
Don Hershman, Extension Plant Pathologist**

Symptomatic plants from research plots on the UK-REC in Princeton, KY have been confirmed by ELISA as Wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV). This viral pathogen, though uncommon, has made some devastating appearances in KY wheat in the past. The pathogen is spread by a tiny mite called the wheat curl mite, and is associated with planting wheat into or near volunteer wheat, which is still green at the time the crop emerges.

At this time it is NOT at all clear that the find represents a wide spread occurrence. It is possible that some cultural practices associated with the farm or our research plot rotations may be at least partially responsible for this situation. It is evident however, that some areas will be dramatically impacted by the disease.

Wheat streak mosaic (WSM) symptoms can be confused by the casual observer as Wheat spindle streak (WSSM) or Barley yellow dwarf (BYD). However, WSM symptoms tend to be a more pale shade of yellow than BYD and tend to have a more streaky or scratchy appearance than either WSSM or BYD.

Producers and consultants are advised to scout their fields for the presence of WSM and if you think you have it, to send a sample to the Plant Disease Diagnostic lab. A laboratory test is the only way to know for certain which virus is causing the symptoms.

At this point if you do have WSM there is little you can do about it, and the symptoms are likely to look worse over time. You may want to review the publication listed below for more information. It does appear that foliar insecticide applications made to these study areas for control of aphids to prevent the spread of BYDV had no effect on the movement of WSM. All the infected plots received both fall and late winter / early spring cover sprays of a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide at the full label rate.

Wheat streak virus and the wheat curl mite. ENTFACT- 117.
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Entomology/entfacts/pdfs/entfa117.pdf>

TRUE ARMYWORM MOTH COUNTS STILL VERY HIGH!

Doug Johnson, Extension Entomologist

Armyworm moth flight appears to be continuing at very significant levels. Moth captures in the IPM pheromone baited cone traps remained very high this past week. Counts for the week ending; 21 April were: 430 and 249 for an average of 340 moths per trap week. As with the previous week, one trap increased in capture while the other declined somewhat. However, both traps are capturing moths at a far greater rate than we have since the outbreak of 2001.

It is pointless at this time to make any more predictions on when worms will begin to appear. Both south east Missouri and southern Illinois have reported the presence of worm populations. So, producers, consultants and other interested persons should be examining fields for the presence of this pest. Corn, wheat and pasture / hay fields are at risk. We are still early in the infestation and having a problem in one location, be that a field, or even part of a field does not mean that you will have a problem in another. Early scouting even if the problem does not develop in your area, will be much better than trying to control a population that has gotten out of hand.

If you have not heard about this situation you may want to review previous articles in the Kentucky Pest News (KPN). Pay particular attention to the series of control articles in the 10 Apr. 06 edition. You may find these articles at:

20 Mar http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpn_06/pn060320.htm#whetru

17 Apr http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpn_06/pn060417.htm#armtru

10 Apr http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpn_06/pn060410.htm#arm

For continuing information, check Ky Pest News
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpnhome.htm>

You may see trap counts for all insects monitored by the UK-IPM program at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/IPM/trapdata/trapdata.htm>

2006 University of Kentucky Wheat Field Day

May 16, 2006 8:45 - Noon (CDT)

University of Kentucky Research & Education Center
Princeton, KY

Welcome - Todd Barlow,
KY Small Grain Growers Association

TOPICS:

- Wheat Variety Trials
Bill Bruening & Dave Van Sanford
- Wheat Injury Following Osprey and Topdressed Nitrogen
Jim Martin & Charles Tutt
- Disease Update
Don Hershman
- Economic Rates of Nitrogen on Wheat
Greg Schwab
- No-Till Wheat: Where does it Stand?
Lloyd Murdock
- Energy Cost & Fuel Efficiency
Scott Shearer
- Insecticide Seed Applied Treatment Study
Doug Johnson
- Device for Reading DON in Wheat
Sladan Beck

Lunch Provided by KY Small Grain Growers Association



CCA Credits Available:
1.5 Pest Management
1.5 Crop Management

Pesticide Credits Available:
1 Specific Hour
(Categories 1, 10, 12)

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Visit our Website:
www.ca.uky.edu/ukrec/welcome2.htm

Lloyd W. Murdock, Extension Soils Specialist

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