

European Corn Borer and Corn Prices Heat Up!



As the summer begins to heat up, so does the insect pressure in corn as well as the corn market. One important consideration is the effect that grain price of \$7 plus per bushel has a corn borer thresholds. At the same time, we receive a few reports this year of corn borer infestations in non-Bt, early-planted corn in the western and central regions of the state. This upswing follows a couple of years where there has been little activity. Corn producers should monitor fields for this pest weekly and use the following table to make control decisions.

The table allows the use of

- % infested plants found by field scouting
- Anticipated yield from the field (bu/a)
- Crop value (\$/bu)
- The controlled cost (\$/a for insecticide + application cost) to makes control decisions.

With the exceptionally strong grain market, thresholds for treatment will be very low. For example, a field that may be expected yield 150 bu per acre at \$7 per bu. If the cost of treatment for corn borers runs \$12 per acre, then the grower would need to prevent only a 1.14% yield loss to break even. While all Bt corn borer hybrids are highly resistant to attack by European corn borer, producers may need to monitor refuge areas, particularly if these were planted early.

Growth Usage	Percentage Infested Plants				
	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%
Early Whorl	4.9	6.5	8.3	10.3	12.6
Late Whorl	3.9	5.2	6.6	8.3	10.1
Pretassel	5.9	5.2	10.0	12.4	15.0
Pollen Shed	3.9	5.2	6.6	8.3	10.0
Kemels Initiated	2.7	3.6	4.5	5.6	

TRI-COUNTY GRAIN NEWS

July 2008

Inside this Issue

Corn Growers	Page 2
Thrips on Soybeans	Page 3
European Corn Borer	Page 4

Tri-County Corn Field Day



July 31, 2008
Robertson's Farm
4:30pm - 7:00pm

Topics Include:

- Greg Adlich, Southern States**
 - Fertilizer Market & Future Outlook
- Chad Lee, UK Grain Specialist**
 - 2008 Crop & Insect update
- Chad Lee, UK Grain Specialist**
 - Fungicide Use in corn
- Jeff Hall, Farm Service Agency**
 - Farm Bill Update

2 credits for CCAs and 1 credit for CEUs have been made available for the field day.
Please RSVP for Accurate Meal Numbers. By calling one of the following:
270-842-1681 • 726-6323 • 586-4484

Directions to the Robertson's Farm:

From Bowling Green: from Natcher Parkway go 13 miles towards Russellville. Turn Left at the 1st Auburn exit (Auburn Business District) go about 1 mile and turn left onto 103. Go 8 miles on 103. Go approx. 1 mile and turn right at the Field Day sign.

Sponsored by: Southern States

Meal Prepared by : Simpson County Cattleman

Corn Growers Expect Excellent Crop Despite Late Start



(Louisville, KY) – Eighty percent of the 2008 Kentucky corn crop was designated in good to excellent condition according to the June 16 Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) *Weekly Crop and Weather Report* despite the late planting due to heavy Spring rainfall. In fact, corn emergence was ahead of the five-year average, at 98 percent.

“This is great news for our growers,” says Jerry Griffith, president of the Kentucky Corn Growers Association (KyCGA). “Each year we are so dependent on the weather, and it looks like it will work in our favor this growing season.”

University of Kentucky (UK) grain crops experts say that now is the time moisture becomes important for yield determination and the crop will require periodic rainfall to maintain the excellent crop condition. Much of the corn is determining ear size and ear number at this point. With favorable weather now, growers should have good cob lengths and good row numbers.


“A 112-day corn crop requires 24 inches of rain per growing season for adequate yields,” says Chad Lee, UK Extension grain specialist. “That equates to about 0.2 inches per day, but a crop can grow with a little less water depending on the timing.”

KASS also reported soil moisture on June 16. It listed 74 percent of the top soil had adequate to surplus moisture, and the sub soil, 83 percent had adequate to surplus moisture.

“We do want to turn our thoughts to the growers in the mid-west,” adds Griffith, “as the recent floods have devastated a large portion of the nation’s cropland. In any given year, farmers in different regions may suffer severe crop losses, but American farmers are resilient and will continue to produce the world’s safest, most abundant food supply.”

The Kentucky Corn Growers Association represents the interests of more than 2000 corn farmers who contribute through the Kentucky corn check off program. For more information visit www.kycorn.org.

County Extension Agents for Agriculture & Natural Resources

 , Logan County

 , Simpson County

 , Warren County

Thrips and Aphid on Soybeans

By Doug Johnson

A number of soybean fields in western Kentucky are infested with large numbers of thrips. Young thrips, their "tar spot" excrement, and feeding damage are relative easy to see. Some individual leaflets are infested with up to 15 thrips. Although there are large numbers on some plants, the distribution is not at all even, though the pest is wide spread. The samples that I have seen indicate that there are fewer thrips on the newly emerged leaves. A good rainfall will allow the plants to increase in size rapidly and they should outgrow the problem. There is little information to indicate that thrips have much of



an effect on yield and no such information exists for Kentucky. Most of the states in our region indicate that treating for thrips is warranted only if plants are dying and thus the stand is being reduced. Soybean has an almost remarkable ability to compensate for insect damage. The most liberal threshold indicates that treatment may be warranted if there are eight (8) thrips on each leaf on all plants sampled.

There is a story circulating in the Kentucky agricultural community that thrips on soybeans can move to tobacco and kill the tobacco. This is INCORRECT. The thrips common to soybean are soybean thrips, *Sericothrips variabilis* and the flower thrips *Frankliniella tritici*. The major thrips related problem on tobacco is a disease called tomato spotted wilt. This disease state is caused by a virus which is moved by the western flower thrips, *Frankliniella occidentalis*. The thrips on soybean is not the same thrips found on tobacco.

A single juvenile aphid was found while examining soybean plants from Graves Co. KY for thrips damage,. Unfortunately, the aphid was damaged in handling so an absolute identification can not be made. The aphid certainly appears to be a soybean aphid but the cotton aphid can not be absolutely ruled out.

Historically, soybean aphid has been found in all of the soybean production area of Kentucky, but so far, populations have not been of any economic importance. Given the progression of the season thus far, I do not expect for this year to be any different. However, producers, consultants etc. are advised to watch for them. Under favorable growing conditions aphid populations can increase very rapidly. Keep an eye open for these pests.

